Hafa Adai!

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Marianas Stars holds off on legal action for now. PAGE 3
Fitial seeks dismissal of charges against him. PAGE 5

Inos: Casino license out soon

» Inos lays out options for $30M pension, accrued interest payments
» Retirees, former DB members urged to attend today's House session

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Besides drumming up support for a bill that would repeal and reenact the Saipan casino law, Gov. Eloy S. Inos also told retirees and former defined benefit plan members early last night that he expects a casino license to be issued "within the very, very near future." That will trigger the release of $30 million to immediately pay for deferred 25 percent pension and accrued interest on withdrawn retirement contributions.

See INOS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), standing left, addresses retirees and former defined benefit plan members about the bill repealing and reenacting in its entirety the Saipan casino law, while Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated, and other officials look on at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan early last night.

Man, 61, killed in car crash

» Cops determine alcohol a factor; handgun recovered from vehicle

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 61-year-old man was killed when the pickup truck he was driving ran off the roadway and slammed into a concrete barrier for a power pole along Flame Tree Road in Dandan early Sunday morning.

Police identified the fatality as Arthur Sibetang, a resident of Dandan, who was also found in possession of a Ruger .22 caliber revolver handgun with its holster. The gun was loaded with six rounds of ammunition in the cylinder.

Sibetang had a crushed chest, head injuries, internal injuries, and lacerations in the face, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst yesterday.

Hurst said traffic investigators determined that alcohol was a factor in the crash. He said police officers detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from the interior of the truck and found a glass cup containing a brown alcoholic beverage.

Investigators also determined that Sibetang was not properly re-

See MAN on Page 4

Over 4,200 anti-casino signatures turned in

» Inos: Repeal, reenact bill won't kill any referendum

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Private citizen Leila Staffler, along with counsel Jennifer Dockter, submitted yesterday morning to the Office of the Attorney General petitions to reject and repeal the Saipan casino and electronic gaming laws with more than 4,200 signatures, much more than the minimum 3,320 signatures needed to place the question on the ballot in November.

At the same time, Staffler is urging those who signed the referendum petitions and other members of the public to contact lawmakers today to ask them to vote "no" to House Bill 18-195, which seeks to repeal and reenact in its entirety Public Law 18-38, as amended by P.L. 18-43. The petitioners believe that the bill will nullify the referendum process and if the Legislature succeeds in passing HB 18-195, people will not be able to directly vote on the casino issue in November.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview last night, said that HB 18-195 "is not to kill any referendum."

See SIGNATURES on Page 4

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Local

Tan Holdings confers Citizenship Award on 10 students

MATTHEW M. LOPEZ
Marianas High School

MAGDIEL A. CORPUZ
Marianas High School

SHAWN O. CAMACHO
Kagman High School

NONGLAK J. KAPILEO
Kagman High School

MARIELLE B. KAPILEO
Saipan Southern High School

BERTRAN DLR. PALACIOS
Saipan Southern High School

KYLE DAVID M. SANDBERGEN
Tinian Sr. High School

CARLYN C. HOFSCHNEIDER
Tinian Sr. High School

MARICEL D. ATALIG
Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School (Rota)

MONA Q. MANGLOÑA
Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School (Rota)

Tan Holdings has presented its first ever Outstanding Citizenship Award on 10 public high school graduates of the CNMI who not only excel academically but are standout members of their community.

In collaboration with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Tan Holdings launched the award program to recognize the CNMI's most outstanding public school students who consistently and unconditionally give their time and talents to serve their community and their respective schools. Qualifying schools included Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Sr. High School, and Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School (Rota).

Awardees for 2014, two from each public high schools, are the following:

■ MATTHEW M. LOPEZ, Marianas High School

■ MAGDIEL A. CORPUZ, Marianas High School

■ SHAWN O. CAMACHO, Kagman High School

■ NONGLAK J. KAPILEO, Kagman High School

■ MARIELLE B. KAPILEO, Saipan Southern High School

■ BERTRAN DLR. PALACIOS, Saipan Southern High School

■ KYLE DAVID M. SANDBERGEN, Tinian Sr. High School

■ CARLYN C. HOFSCHNEIDER, Tinian Sr. High School

■ MARICEL D. ATALIG, Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School (Rota)

■ MONA Q. MANGLOÑA, Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School (Rota).

The Outstanding Public High School Citizenship criteria target students who demonstrate strength of character that encourages fellow students, leadership qualities that inspire others, and a commitment to service to others without receiving financial compensation or academic credit.

The Outstanding Citizenship Award focuses on the applicants' commitment to serve their communities, their demonstrated leadership ability, and their independent character in being an upstanding citizen in the local community.

"When we had this idea to give an award, we really wanted to emphasize the students that really give a lot to their community. So this award is really great for our students because it gives our kids more incentive to excel not only in their studies, but to also be an active member of the community," said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

Awardees received a plaque of recognition and a gift bag of prizes, including one of the latest electronic tablets and other goods altogether valued at over $1,000. ***(PR)***

KHS Open House orientation schedule

Kagman High School invites parents and students to KHS cafeteria to preview the new year's goals and review the previous years data. Stakeholders will get an update on what is new at the school and plans for the school year. All parents and students are highly encouraged to attend the orientation and tour the campus during the open house that follows. Teachers will be on campus for parents to connect with.

■ Aug. 26 at 2:30pm: Seniors Class of 2015

■ Aug. 27 at 2:30pm: Juniors Class of 2016

■ Aug. 28 at 2:30pm: Sophomores Class of 2017

■ Aug. 29 at 2:30pm: Freshmen Class 2018

If you are a parent with multiple age students attending here, you are only expected to attend one session. All parents who attend will earn tickets for the end of the year raffle. This raffle is designed to promote parent involvement and attendance at all KHS events and meetings. The more a parent participates, the more tickets they will earn. You can not purchase these tickets. Call 237-3840 for more details. ***(KHS)***

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Marianas Stars holds off on legal action for now

Marianas Stars has decided for now to dismiss, without prejudice, its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Lottery Commission and others.

In a statement yesterday, the company said: "We continue to believe that the Lottery Commission, which is controlled by the Executive Branch, cannot lawfully issue a casino license without the prior involvement of the independent Commonwealth Casino Commission. However, we did not succeed in obtaining an injunction to prevent the Lottery Commission from acting unilaterally to issue an illegal casino license. We therefore, now think it best to wait and allow our legal strategy to be dictated by events as they unfold.

"Marianas Stars was aware when we requested an injunction in the Superior Court that we were asking for 'extraordinary relief.' In order to qualify for a preliminary injunction we were required to show that we could not be adequately protected after the fact if the Lottery Commission were allowed to issue a casino license in violation of the law. [Associate] Judge [David] Wiseman found that if we could prove the Lottery Commission had not followed the law, we could be adequately compensated after the fact for any resulting harm. That means we do not qualify for a preliminary injunction at this time. Judge Wiseman's ruling was not, however, a ruling on the merits of our principal claim: that the Lottery Commission has not been following the law. We remain convinced that the Lottery Commission has not been following the law, and reserve the right to assert that claim again.

"When we filed our lawsuit, one of our principal concerns was that the Lottery Commission, which has none of the independence and safeguards of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, had usurped the duties of the Casino Commission. We respectfully oppose the proposed Saipan casino law "fix" (HB 18-195) because it would, at the last minute, transform the casino licensing process from one controlled by an independent agency, with safeguards, into one controlled exclusively by the Executive Branch. Our principal concerns with H.B. 18-195 are that it:

- Kills the referenda that thousands of voters want to put on the ballot
- Still calls for only one license, further supporting the impression these laws were designed with a preferred bidder in mind,
- Attempts to block the courts from being watchdogs to protect the people, and
- Changes horses in midstream at the last minute, retroactively removing all independence and accountability from the casino licensing process

"If the people choose casino gaming for Saipan, Marianas Stars wants to be a part of it—but only if it's done right, through a fair and transparent process that's supported by the people.

"Large-scale casino gaming on Saipan will change these islands forever. If it's going to be done, it must be done right. Rushing to enact a flawed 'fix' will only arouse further suspicion—and put the Commonwealth's future at risk.

"We think we have a better idea—an idea that would double the revenue for retirees, for schools, for infrastructure, for everyone. But it's only a good idea if the people want it. Please visit www.marianasstars.com to learn about our proposal." ***(PR)***

High surf and small craft advisory

A large swell generated by distant Typhoon Neoguri have begun to subside but will remain high enough to generate hazardous surf until Wednesday. A high surf advisory remains in effect until 4pm Wednesday.

Surf on both west facing and north facing reefs will subside below hazardous levels by Wednesday evening.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm today, Tuesday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches as rip currents is life threatening. ***(PR)***

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Search for missing sisters wind down, may end today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero stated yesterday they are not completely ruling out foul play behind the disappearance of two Japanese sisters because the two have not been found.

In a news briefing held at DPS Boating Safety Section, Deleon Guerrero, however, stressed that there is no evidence at this point to suggest foul play.

"We are not completely ruling out foul play and the reason behind that is the absence of recovery of the two missing persons. We just cannot conclude at this time," he said.

He said there is also no indication at this time to suggest that sisters Chinatsu Yamada and Natsuki Yamada brought their cell phones with them to the CNMI.

Deleon Guerrero said that DPS, with the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, checked with both IT&E and Docomo and have received information that no calls were made to or from the sisters' cell phones using their cellular networks.

» DPS not completely ruling out foul play behind disappearance

Deleon Guerrero said the sisters' parents told investigators that they have not spoken to the two while they were on Saipan.

The commissioner said DPS is still making all efforts to continue the search and that, based upon a witness account, the search will continue until this afternoon, Tuesday.

Deleon Guerrero said a couple reported seeing two Japanese women around sunset on June 29 at Wing Beach.

"This information is being substantiated by our investigators at this point. If no further evidence or information is recovered by tomorrow afternoon, DPS will suspend search efforts," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said he has already notified the victims' parents yesterday about their plan to end the search.

The commissioner said the parents were obviously disappointed but accepted the facts that local and federal search and rescue teams have been doing their best to locate their daughters.

The parents are set to go back to Japan on July 11. They came here last Wednesday, July 2, after hearing about the disappearance of their daughters.

Deleon Guerrero said the parents were apparently not aware when their daughters came to Saipan.

Natsuki Yamada, 33, and Chinatsu Yamada, 26, arrived on Saipan last June 28. They were supposed go back to Japan on June 30.

Deleon Guerrero assured everyone that the case will still be investigated even after the search efforts are suspended.

"We have exhausted all efforts in the search of these two missing tourists and have expended a great deal of resources doing such," he said.

DPS Boating Safety Section commander Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. clarified yesterday that the raft believed to have been used by the sisters and recovered last July 2 was still inflated and was face up in the water. Earlier DPS reports stated that the raft was deflated.

Deleon Guerrero said they recovered a clothing with a Japanese name on it but it turned out that the name was not of the missing sisters and that the family also indicated it does not belong to the sisters.

Deleon Guerrero said there's been a report (not *Saipan Tribune*) about the sisters' pair of sandals. He said the pair of sandals was actually the pair of shoes and that they unlocked the sisters' suitcase and found the pair of shoes there.

Blas said that 24 DPS and Commonwealth Ports Authority personnel took part in the search using four boats, vehicles, and jetskis.

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Ken McCain said they used four aircraft, three helicopters, and two ships that covered 8,100 square nautical miles and 154 hours.

SIGNATURES

From Page 1

"It's another process that's available," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*, minutes after addressing retirees and former members of the defined benefit plan at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan early last night.

The governor and other lawmakers also urged retirees, former DB plan members, and other community members to also make their voices heard by House members during today's session.

Staffler said people were not consulted and heard when lawmakers passed the Saipan casino bill, and submission of referendum petitions will pave the way for voters to directly say "yes" or "no" to Saipan casino in November.

"People want to have a chance on a vote such as this. The issue isn't really about retirees; this issue is about casinos on Saipan," Staffler said in an interview at the submission of the petitions to the OAG at past 11am yesterday on Capital Hill.

Staffler, of Kagman III, reiterated that the petitions are specific to the Saipan casino laws—Public Law 18-38, as amended by Public Law 18-43; as well as Public Law 18-30, or the electronic gaming law.

She said they expect that the OAG, along with other agencies, will be able to certify the petitions and signatures so they would know whether the matter will be placed on the ballot or not.

Staffler initially aimed to gather 4,500 signatures and almost got that number with more than 4,200 actual signatures turned in to the OAG yesterday.

"We need to turn in no less than 3,220 signatures…but just to be safe, we made sure that we got over their expected amount so that in case numbers go down because of double signing or double registration, we have a backup, a cushion, in case some are disqualified," Staffler said.

Some 300 signatures are from Tinian and Rota, and the rest from Saipan.

INOS

From Page 1

At the same time, private citizen Leila Staffler urged the public to ask House of Representatives members to vote "no" to the repeal and reenact measure, House Bill 18-195, that's up for a vote today. She said its passage would nullify or kill the referendum process that's supported by over 4,200 people who want to vote on the casino issue in November.

Inos, for his part, assured that H.B. 18-195 won't kill any referendum.

A crowd is expected to be at the House session at 1:30pm today—retirees and former DB plan members on one hand, and those who want to reject the casino law and place the question on the ballot instead.

If and when H.B. 18-195 passes the House today, the Senate will take it up during its session on Thursday.

"Speaking from the Office of the Governor, I can tell you this much: Barring any major, substantive concerns on the bill, I intend to approve that bill immediately," the governor told retirees and former DB plan members at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan early last night.

Inos said that bill, once signed into law, will correct ambiguities and deficiencies in the Saipan casino law and "will pave the way for the payment of the 25 percent [pension cut], the payment of the accrued interest on the P.L. 17-82 withdrawals and if there's any leftover from the first batch, we will start making payment for the other categories—medical referral, maybe land compensation, and so forth."

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), author of H.B. 18-195 and the casino bill, and Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) also addressed retirees and former DB plan members last night.

The "trigger" to the release of the $30 million now held in escrow is the Lottery Commission's issuance of a license, according to the governor.

The application process for an exclusive integrated casino resort license on Saipan moved forward after Superior Court Associate Judge Wiseman denied last week an attempt to stop the government from issuing a casino license.

At 2pm today, the Lottery Commission chaired by Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar will convene again but a decision is not expected to be made as to whether a license will be granted and to whom.

The two applicants vying for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion integrated casino resort on Saipan are Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. and Best Sunshine International Ltd.

Payment system

The governor also provided options being considered on when and how the pension and accrued interest payments will be made once a casino license is issued and the $30 million deposit is released for those payments.

Inos said either the Finance secretary releases the payments, or the funds will be transferred to the retirement settlement fund to write the checks.

"We will review which one is efficient but we will do it either way," the governor told the crowd.

He said the payments will be made on a "first in, first out basis," meaning the ones that's owed first will be paid first. They will be paid retroactively. For retirees' deferred pension, for example, they will be paid retroactively from Oct. 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, or up to a certain date. One check will be written for that period.

After that, the payment of the deferred 25 percent pension will be either on a semi-monthly, monthly or quarterly basis.

The deferred 25-percent pension costs $15 million to $16 million, while the accrued interests on withdrawn DB plan contributions is about $8 million.

Inos is considering an option just in case there's a shortfall in the distribution.

"One of the things that I will be asking the commission to negotiate with the developer is the ability to allow for additional advances in the event that we need more funds to make up for the required payments because, remember, after we pay the 25-percent restoration, we need to meet the interest for the 17-82 withdrawals and that I believe is somewhere within $8 million, and those folks need to be whole again," Inos told the crowd.

Clyde Norita, spokesperson for the retirees last night, said just as other groups are organizing themselves, so do retirees and former DB plan members who are waiting for their deferred 25-percent pension and contribution interests.

"For many retirees, this is a matter of life and death. They rely on their pension. They want to get their pension in full," said Norita.

Norita and Greg "Kazuma" Camacho are urging retirees and former DB members to also show up at today's House session and ask lawmakers to pass H.B. 18-195.

"Seems like some people are playing around with retirees' 25-percent pension. … We're here to stand up to be heard," he added.

Eugenio Borja, 85, said he's looking forward to getting his full pension. He was among those at the meeting last night in Garapan.

House panel 'moves around' $253.79 in proposed budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chairman Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) told reporters yesterday afternoon that the panel decided to move around $253,788 in the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget, which means some agencies got more while some got less than Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposal. The latest number is lower than the panel's earlier projection of between $300,000 and $400,000 that can be cut from and added to agencies' budgets.

Sablan's committee has been working on the 2015 budget bill, although they have been sidetracked by a host of issues that included the casino lawsuit, sessions and the State of the Commonwealth Address, less than three months before the start of FY 2015 on Oct. 1.

He said the committee decided not to add to the governor's proposed budget for the Public School System but instead retained a $1 million appropriation for the ROTC program that is supposed to be funded 50 percent by local government and 50 percent by the federal government. Sablan said right now the $1 million is budgeted under 2015, so once the federal government reimburses the CNMI $500,000, PSS will have the flexibility to use that money for its programs and services.

"When feds money comes in, PSS will have $500,000 that it can use for its other needs," Sablan said.

The $253,788 that the Ways and Means Committee moved around came from the following offices and agencies: $40,000 from the governor's office's "professional services" fund; a total of $16,000 from the lieutenant governor's office; $54,500 from the Office of Indigenous Affairs; $54,500 from the Carolinian Affairs Office; $60,467 from Finance's Revenue and Taxation Division; and $16,515 from the Civil Service Commission.

Sablan said the money were redistributed to the following agencies and offices: $35,000 to the Judiciary; $50,000 to the Law Revision Commission; $18,000 to the Legislature for inaugural costs; $15,860 to hire a cook at the Tinian Aging Center; $30,000 for the Medical Referral Office's purchase of a service van; $10,000 for the Land Registration's photo copying needs; and $19,000-plus for the Parole Office.

Any leftover funds will go towards hiring a medical referral assistant in Honolulu, among other things. A budget bill could be pre-filed next week.

MAN

From Page 1

strained, causing him to impact with the steering wheel and front windshield.

Hurst said the accident, which was reported to DPS on Sunday at 2:26am, occurred on the eastbound shoulder of Flame Tree Road by the sharp curve in between the Jin Li Store and the Cepeda (Apong) residence.

Hurst said that Sibetang already had no pulse when a police officer arrived at the scene.

DPS medics brought Sibetang to the Commonwealth Health Center, where Dr. Florence Schenker pronounced him dead at 3:10am.

Hurst said Sibetang was driving a 1990 blue Toyota Hilux and was heading east when the vehicle ran off the road to the right and slammed head on with the concrete barrier that protects the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power pole.

He said it was determined that no brakes were applied prior to the impact.

The truck had extensive damage to its front portion.

At the time of the crash, the weather was cloudy, the road surface was dry, and the area where it happened was dark.

Sibetang is the third fatality of a vehicular crash in the CNMI this year.

Last June 22, a woman and her unborn 5-month-old baby were killed while three other occupants of a Toyota Sienna van were injured when the vehicle they were riding crashed into a power pole along As Perdido Road.

Traffic investigators determined that speed was the major cause of the crash and the driver was arrested.

Last year, three were killed in separate vehicular accidents. All happened on Saipan and speeding and alcohol were determined to be factors in the accidents.

Fitial seeks dismissal of charges filed against him

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial asked the Superior Court yesterday to dismiss the criminal charges filed against him, asserting that the public auditor had no authority to bring the charges.

Fitial, through counsel Stephen N. Nutting, argued that the Legislature had no authority to grant the public auditor the power to prosecute a criminal complaint, especially when that power was afforded to the attorney general under the CNMI Constitution.

Even if the statute were constitutional, it did not give the public auditor the authority to bring criminal charges against a former governor, and now private citizen, said Nutting in a 37-page motion to dismiss.

"The failure of the public auditor to timely bring on his complaint, especially for those charges which are based upon well-publicized facts that are now 2 to 4 years old, raises a number of questions regarding the public auditor's motivations in attempting to prosecute these charges," the lawyer said.

Fitial

Those questions, Nutting pointed out, become even more significant when so many of the charges are based upon imaginative reading of vague and ambiguous statutes, and vague charges that Fitial's conduct violated some unidentified and unstated CNMI law and/or regulations.

The Office of Public Auditor filed the complaint on May 1, 2014, charging Fitial with 10 criminal charges. OPA later amended the complaint to include three more charges.

The charges are related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate, award of a sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract, the shielding of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons, and the execution of a power purchase agreement contract related to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In Fitial's motion to dismiss, Nutting asserted, among other things, that the Constitution does not give the public auditor any authority to prosecute a criminal complaint on behalf of the CNMI government.

Nutting said the Legislature, however, saw fit to enact legislation that purports to grant the public auditor with the authority to investigate and prosecute a criminal action in very limited circumstances.

The criminal case filed against the 68-year-old Fitial has been re-assigned to Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja made the decision to re-assign the case to Wiseman after Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio recused herself from presiding over the matter to avoid any appearance of partiality.

Fitial pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Boating Safety responds to 8 water incidents in 7 days

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Officers of the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section responded to eight incidents on Saipan in the past seven days alone, including the search for two missing Japanese sisters, stranded divers, near drowning, and stranded swimmers/kayakers.

DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that these things happened despite the government's warning of an impending storm.

He urged people to heed these warnings and take them seriously.

Deleon Guerrero said that when something like this happens, DPS has to divert some of its resources in order to attend to another developing emergency.

"So something as simple as staying on the land would have prevented us from that particular area, diverting some resources," he said.

BSS commander Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said they were in the midst of searching for two missing Japanese sisters when they received a report on Thursday about an unidentified floating object in Laulau Bay.

Blas said they retrieved the object, which was a large cargo net that probably fell off from a ship.

Blas said they responded on Friday to a report about stranded swimmers at the Grotto. He said when they got to the Grotto, a security guard from G4S had already rescued the seven stranded divers, using a ring buoy.

Blas said the guard went down to the dive site and assisted the seven divers in safely returning to the shore.

On Saturday, Blas said, they responded to an incident of near drowning at Obyan Beach.

On Sunday, he said, they responded to three incidents—a near drowning at Fishing Base in Garapan, stranded paddle boarders in San Antonio, and a stranded kayaker at Sugar Dock.

At the Liberation Day grounds in Fishing Base, a boy fell into the water but was soon rescued.

In the San Antonio incident, family members rescued two stranded minors on paddle boards. Blas said family members used a kayak to go to the reef line and pulled the stranded minors to safety.

At Sugar Dock, a stranded male kayaker got swept out beyond the reef by large waves and could not return to shore. BSS officers rescued him.

Blas said a 19-year-old male on a boogie board became stranded at Sugar Dock yesterday afternoon but BSS officers rescued him.

International Festival of Cultures is MVA's new annual signature event

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority will be launching its newest annual signature event this September—the International Festival of Cultures.

According to organizing committee chair Ryan Calvo, the event would showcase the international cultures in the CNMI, with emphasis on Micronesian culture.

» September eyed for Festival of Cultures

MVA executive director Perry Tenorio said that, just like with the Taste of the Marianas, the Festival of Cultures will take place every Saturday in September.

The proposed venue for the event will be at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Performances will be held from 7pm to 11pm, while food vendors will open at 5pm and end at 11pm.

"This will give extra time for tourists to come out and see the performances," Calvo said.

He said their vision for the festival is to let everybody see the varied cultures that make up the Commonwealth.

Committee member Tetsuya Matsunaga recommended that at least eight associations should join to present their culture.

A representative for one of the committee members under Ed Arriola recommended separate tents for each culture, while the performances on stage could be mixed.

Calvo said they will be using 10-by-40 tents to represent each culture.

"Each association like Japan, Korea, Carolinian, Yap, etc., will have their own booth, but the main stage will be for the performers where they will perform their traditional performances," Calvo said.

According to Calvo, they are now accepting any organization that wants to join.

"Next week we will have a meeting and if we can get all those people to come in, then we will decide on the deadline for the registration for the event, because we don't want to continue to delay the deadline," he added.

The Northern Marianas Judiciary
Historical Society and the Judiciary present:

The Law In The Community Lecture Series 2014

Third in a Series of Four Public Lectures
Public Welcomed to All Lectures

Article XII Referendum: Blood Quantum and Other Constitutional Issues

July 8 at 6:00 pm
American Memorial Park Auditorium
Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor,
University of California at Davis School of Law
1 Continuing Legal Education Credit

The Lectures Series is made possible by support from the:
Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a nonprofit corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities; CNMI Bar Association; Delta Airlines; Garment Residual Charitable Fund; Hertz Rent A Car; JET Realty and Development; Saipan Shipping Company; Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.; and Triple J Star Wholesale Foods.

For more information, contact the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary Historical Society at 236-9805.

Judge orders Quichocho's arrest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered yesterday the immediate issuance of a bench warrant for the arrest of attorney Ramon K. Quichocho for failing to appear at a show-cause hearing.

Manglona set Quichocho's bail at $1,200.

The judge said she would separately address the issue of finding the lawyer in civil contempt once he is present before the court.

If and when Quichocho does make some sort of transmission of funds, Manglona said the money would be held in a trust until the hearing on the civil contempt issue.

Last June 30, Manglona ordered Quichocho to show cause why he should not be held in civil contempt for refusing to pay sanctions for $1,200 in attorney's fees.

In that order, Manglona said if Quichocho opts not to pay the sanctions and instead presents deficient excuses at the hearing, she will not hesitate to hold him in civil contempt and remand him to jail until he pays.

The show-cause hearing was scheduled yesterday at 10am.

Quichocho

Quichocho failed to appear at the hearing.

Attorney Mark Scoggins appeared as counsel for Ming Yang Corp. that owns Ming Yang Market.

Scoggins stated that since the filing of Quichocho's motion for reconsideration, the latter had claimed to be traveling.

Scoggins disclosed that he had received one email from Quichocho a week ago that he was still off-island and had not heard from him since.

Scoggins stated he was prepared to offer testimony on the lack of payment but Manglona said there's no need as the court accepts his statements as facts.

Manglona said the order to show cause was served on the parties electronically and that Quichocho had four emails listed for receipt of notices.

The judge noted that the clerk's office had not received any off-island notice from Quichocho.

Manglona issued the $1,200 sanction order against Quichocho on June 16 for his late submission of his opposition to Ming Yang Corp.'s motion to dismiss a lawsuit. Part of the sanction included paying Ming Yang Corp.'s legal fees in preparing for a motion.

Manglona ordered Quichocho to pay the fees no later than June 25, 2014. On June 24, however, Quichocho filed a motion to reconsider. He claimed that his opposition was due June 12, but that he left Saipan for personal and medical reasons on June 10, so he could not file an opposition.

Manglona denied the motion and gave Quichocho until June 27 to pay the sanctions.

When Quichocho again failed to pay the sanctions by June 27, Scoggins filed a petition for an order to show cause. Manglona granted the petition.

Quichocho served as counsel for William A. Tracy, who sued several businesses, including Ming Yang, for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Tracy was reportedly found dead last Feb.7. The case has since been dismissed. Last May 28, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an order suspending Quichocho's license to practice law for three years for professional misconduct by using a legal tool to harass a former client to get payment.

Dispute in LibDay Queen counting still unresolved

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Disputes in the results of the counting for the Liberation Day Queen is still unresolved after the Liberation Committee held a nearly three-hour meeting at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room yesterday.

Ronnie B. Doca, father of 2014 Liberation Day First Princess Rita Doca, said the meeting between the parents, representatives of the mayor's office, and members of the Liberation Committee did not resolve questions about the results of the counting.

According to Doca, the Liberation Committee will be calling him today, July 8, and other parents for another meeting to try and resolve the issue.

Doca told *Saipan Tribune* that the parents of 2014 Liberation Day Second Princess Gilitinon Ramangmou did not show up for the meeting. It was earlier reported that the father of Ramangmou, Frank Ramangmou, had also expressed concerns over the counting process with the Liberation Committee.

Doca did note that his request for documents and tally sheets was granted.

He said he would not leave the issue behind.

"Something went wrong with the process of counting and the acceptance of the money," Doca said. "I am going to continue and I am going to bring out what is not right and I want fairness because it might happen next year again and continue if nothing is done."

According to Saipan Mayor's Office special adviser Henry Hofschneider, the meeting went great with some of the candidates and parents attending. He confirmed that Mayor Marian Tudela was present at the meeting. He declined to offer additional comments.

Saipan Tribune tried several times to call Liberation Committee chair Vicente Camacho yesterday but he could not be reached.

Red Cross helps house fire victims

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter provided assistance to the victims of a house fire in Tanapag in the early morning of July 3, 2014.

The single-family dwelling was completely destroyed by the fire. No one was reported hurt.

The Red Cross Disaster Action Team responded to the fire scene and worked closely with the family in providing them with much needed assistance for clothing and household needs.

"The Red Cross is extremely grateful for the generous support of its donors and the CNMI Community. It is through this support that the Red Cross is able to respond to the needs of families during disasters," said Paul W. Camacho, Emergency Services director.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fire razed this single-family dwelling in Tanapag in the early morning of July 3, 2014. No one was reported hurt.

For information regarding the Red Cross, contact Camacho at 670-234-3459. ***(ARC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-004

THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, AND COMMISSIONING OF THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE WIC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC PROGRAM, UPPER NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Commission of the Emergency generators for the WIC Program Administration and Clinic Building, Upper Navy Hill, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 01, 2014**, at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set and in order to bid on this project. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 18, 2014** at 9:00 a.m. local time at the WIC Program Administration and Clinic Building, Upper Navy Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 29, 2014** to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Pubic Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-14-IFB-004". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **August 1, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **August 1, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 1, 2014**, and must be received no later than **August 12, 2014.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 15, 2014**, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **August 1, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred dollars (**$100.00**) for each and every day the work is delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

Ramon B. Camacho submits candidacy for Saipan mayor

JAYSON CAMACHO

Ramon B. Camacho, second from left, signs forms during the submission of his candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe yesterday afternoon. Others in photo are Camacho's campaign manager, John Borja, first from left, and Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero, right.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ramon B. Camacho formally signified his intent to run for mayor of Saipan with the submission of his candidacy papers to the Commonwealth Elections Commission in Susupe yesterday.

Joining him in his submission were supporters, family members, and committee-to-elect members.

Camacho said he is very glad that his supporters came out and supported him when he filed his candidacy.

According to Camacho's campaign manager, John Borja, they have been working hard since last year. "We believe that the municipality of Saipan belongs to the community and what we're going to do is to bring the municipality back to the community," Borja told *Saipan Tribune*.

Borja pointed out that Camacho has been working hard on the revitalization of villages, the Neighborhood Watch program, and beautification of villages since becoming chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Borja said they would like to bring back the youth sports for the villages as well.

"Before, there was a village competition in sports, especially among the young generation and we want to bring that back to the youth of every village," Borja said.

One of Camacho's supporters, Lucy Cabrera, said that an issue she would like to raise is the cleanliness of the island.

"Another issue is that many of the smaller stores have trash outside and it is not inviting [to look at]. Camacho would listen to these concerns and I know he's very active," Cabrera said.

Another supporter, John Aldan, said that Camacho has experience with the municipality and this will help him when he becomes the mayor of Saipan.

"He used to be a councilman and I know he can do a better job as a mayor," Aldan said.

Camacho said his slogan is "Forward together."

"We need to work together with the community to fulfill the issues and needs, and a lot of things can be accomplished when you work with the community," he said.

"I am not running as mayor 'for' the people. I am running as mayor 'with' the people and that's my difference as a mayoral candidate," he added.

Camacho is running as an independent candidate.

Other Saipan mayoral candidates are independent candidate David Apatang and Republican candidate Joe Reyes.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wanted: Roland H. Muña

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a wanted person. On Tuesday, July 1, 2014, Pretty Tours Car Rental on Beach Road in Garapan was burglarized and items stolen include an FJ Cruiser. Police investigation led to several suspects, including Roland H. Muña.

On Friday, July 4, 2014, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio signed an arrest warrant for Roland Hernandez Muña, age 25. The charges include burglary, theft, and theft of a vehicle. Cash bail has been set for $50,000.

Police officers made contact with Roland Muña the next day to serve the arrest warrant. Muña, however, managed to elude and escape police officers. He is still at large.

Muña is described as a local Chamorro male, 5'4" tall, and weighs 140 lbs. He has brown hair and brown eyes. He has a mustache and may have a short goatee. He also has multiple tattoos.

Muña

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use thier website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***

CNMI Baseball Team to host fundraiser

The Saipan Baseball League Board invites everyone to their final Micronesian Games fundraiser on Thursday, July 10, 2014, from 6pm to 11pm, at the Central Park in Garapan, next to Gold's Gym. Tickets are $10 each. All beverages will be on sale at $2 each. Proceeds of this fundraiser will benefit the CNMI National Baseball Team's room and board expenses while In Pohnpei. You may purchase your ticket(s) from any of the following SBL board members: Rose Igitol (287-1129), Tony Rogolifoi (285-3966/234-6672), Bernard Cabrera (287-7252), and AJ Murig (989-0640), or from any of the National Team members. ***(PR)***

Message of Appreciation

The Committee to Elect-Mayor Donald Pangelinan Flores, wishes to extend its appreciation to his wife Cecilia, his son Derron, his grand children, and the entire family for making us a part of their family. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the CHC Emergency Room doctors and staff, the Intensive Care Unit, the many relatives, friends and supporters who visited the late Mayor while he was admitted. We would like to thank the entire community for their tremendous support, kind thoughts and prayers that poured in for the mayors speedy recovery.

The Committee to Elect, would like to give special thanks to all the businesses, family, friends but most especially the supporters who contributed financially and supported the Mayor during his fundraising event. We would like to also extend a special heartfelt appreciation to the entire staff of the late Mayor for their dedication and hard work serving our community and also for voluntarily participating in the Mayors re-election campaign.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Mayors successor Ms. Marian Dlg. Tudela for returning back to the CNMI to fulfill the remainder of the term and continuing on with Mayor Flores visions and projects.

Mayor Donald Pangelinan Flores was truly an exceptional person who loved being Mayor of Saipan and serving the people from the municipality of Saipan; he will forever be missed!

Paid for by the committee to elect James Cabrera-Chairman

Teachers obtain training on how to teach AP courses

Photo shows the 12th Annual PSS 2014 AP Summer Institute held at the Northern Marianas College this year. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For over 12 years, the Public School System has supported rigorous academic instruction through the College Board Advance Placement program. Every year, teachers from all over the CNMI, including participants from private schools and public schools on Tinian and Rota, are invited to attend a four-day training to become certified AP teachers. This certification allows schools to offer AP courses endorsed by the College Board.

Students who take AP courses are exposed to college level academic expectations and even have the opportunity to earn college credit through passing the AP examinations that are given annually in May. All PSS students are afforded the opportunity to take the high stakes AP examinations free of charge through a federal grant obtained by the district.

Every year, over 600 students in the CNMI take the AP exam in hopes of scoring 3s and 4s that would then earn them college credit, giving them a head start in college. These credits are widely accepted at U.S. accredited colleges and universities.

For the last three years, Pre-AP and vertical team content strategies have been a large focus of the Saipan AP Summer Institutes. Training in pre-AP and vertical teams in relation to AP courses are designed to provide teachers in the middle school and elementary grade levels access to instructional strategies that would prepare students so that once they enter high school, they are ready for AP courses.

Pre-AP is based on two premises. The first is that all students can perform at rigorous academic levels. The second is that by preparing students for rigorous intellectual engagement, we must start developing those skills as early as possible. That is why middle and elementary school teachers have been highly encouraged to attend this annual training.

This year, a total of 40 teachers received training in the subject areas of AP English language, literature and composition, AP Calculus and AP Biology. All three content areas included an emphasis in Pre-AP strategies and Vertical team alignment. By providing teachers and students access to pre-AP strategies and Vertical Team alignment, more students in the CNMI will be prepared to take AP courses and pass AP exams.

"Big thanks go out to the Northern Marianas College for allowing us the use of their campus for the APSI venue this year. Big thanks to the STEP UP program for allowing our science teachers to use the lab facilities at NMC," said Leila Staffler, the AP Summer Institute director.

Teachers will be surveyed this September to decide what courses will be offered for next year's APSI. Next year's APSI will take place on June 23-26, 2015.

USDA offers new options to help farmers manage risk

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced continued progress in implementing provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill that provide new risk management options for farmers and ranchers. These improvements to crop insurance programs will provide better protection from weather disaster, market volatility and other risk factors to ensure farmers aren't wiped out by events beyond their control.

Vilsack also announced new support for beginning farmers that will make crop insurance more affordable and provide greater support when new farmers experience substantial losses. These announcements build on other recent USDA efforts to support beginning farmers.

"Crop insurance is critical to the ongoing success of today's farmers and ranchers and our agriculture economy. These improvements provide additional flexibility to ensure families do not lose everything due to events beyond their control," said Vilsack. "We're also acting to provide more support to beginning farmers and ranchers so that they can manage their risk effectively. We need to not only encourage new farmers to get into agriculture, we must ensure they're not wiped out in their riskiest initial seasons so they can remain in agriculture for years to come."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency recently filed an interim rule with the *Federal Register*, allowing USDA to move forward with changes to crop insurance provisions. The provisions provide better options for beginning farmers, allow producers to have enterprise units for irrigated and non-irrigated crops, give farmers and ranchers the ability to purchase different levels of coverage for a variety of irrigation practices, provide guidance on conservation compliance, implement protections for native sod and provide adjustments to historical yields following significant disasters.

The Farm Bill authorizes specific coverage benefits for beginning farmers and ranchers starting with the 2015 crop year. The changes announced today exempt new farmers from paying the $300 administrative fee for catastrophic policies. New farmers' premium support rates will also increase ten percentage points during their first five years of farming. Beginning farmers will also receive a greater yield adjustment when yields are below 60 percent of the applicable transitional yield. These incentives will be available for most insurance plans in the 2015 crop year and all plans by 2016.

Starting in the fall of 2014, producers who till native sod and plant an annual crop on that land will see reductions in their crop insurance benefits during the first four years. Native sod is acreage that has never been tilled, or land which a producer cannot substantiate has ever been tilled for the production of a crop. The provision applies to acreage in all counties in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota that is greater than five acres per policy and is producing annual crops.

Additional flexibility for irrigated and non-irrigated enterprise units and coverage levels will be available in the spring of 2015. Additional information on implementation of these changes is available at the RMA website, www.rma.usda.gov.

The interim rule is available to the public at the *Federal Register* at www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx.

More information is available on the RMA website at www.rma.usda.gov. Written comments on the rule can be submitted to www.regulations.gov by Sept. 2, 2014. All comments will be considered when the rule is made final. ***(USDA)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 8, 2006

Fund no solid case yet vs govt

The NMI Retirement Fund is still without a solid case against the government, nearly a month after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed three major retirement laws, including one that suspends the central government's monthly payment to the Fund. Fund board chair Joseph Reyes said that lawyers are "still working" on the case. This came as both legal counsels representing the board and the Retirement program went off-island last week for "non-Fund matters." Board legal counsel James Camacho reportedly went to Chuuk, while in-house lawyer James Hollman went on a personal trip to the Philippines.

$100K sought for fatal curve's rails

Saipan lawmakers have approved funding for the construction of guardrails at the so-called "Fatality Curve" in Puerto Rico. The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed a House local bill appropriate $100,000 for the installation of jersey barriers or guardrails along the 1,000-feet curve at Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The money will come from the developers infrastructure tax fund. The measure identified the secretary of the Department of Public Works as expenditure authority for the funds. Authored by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio and two other lawmakers, House Local Bill 15-15 now awaits the governor's action.

July 8, 2007

Study: NMI kids on high-protein, low calcium diet

After almost two years of research, the Health Pacific Child Project Survey finally completed its analysis and the results show a cause for concern: Children in the CNMI have a very high intake of protein from processed food and a low intake of calcium. Lead researcher Nicky Davison said the "the most striking finding was the very high intake of protein in CNMI children." In the four to nine years old age group, children were found to be consuming four times the recommended level of protein. Besides high protein sources such as meat, eggs, poultry, fish and nuts, children in the CNMI also get their protein from processed food like hotdogs, corned beef and luncheon meat. These processed food contain high levels of sodium and fat, resulting in high dietary intakes of fat and sodium, Davison said.

US DOL issues new minimum wage poster

The U.S. Department of Labor has made available on its Web site, free of charge, a revised Federal minimum wage poster reflecting the recently enacted minimum wage increases. Every employer of employees subject to the Fair Labor Standard Act's minimum wage provisions must post, and keep posted, a notice explaining the act in a conspicuous place in all of their establishments so as to permit employees to readily read it. Effective July 24, 2007, the federal minimum wage for covered non-exempt employees will be $5.85 per hour. The minimum wage increases to $6.55 per hour effective July 24, 2008; and $7.25 per hour effective July 24, 2009. A separate provision of the recently-passed law brings about phased increases to the minimum wage in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with the goal of bringing the minimum wage in those locations up to the general federal minimum wage over a number of years.

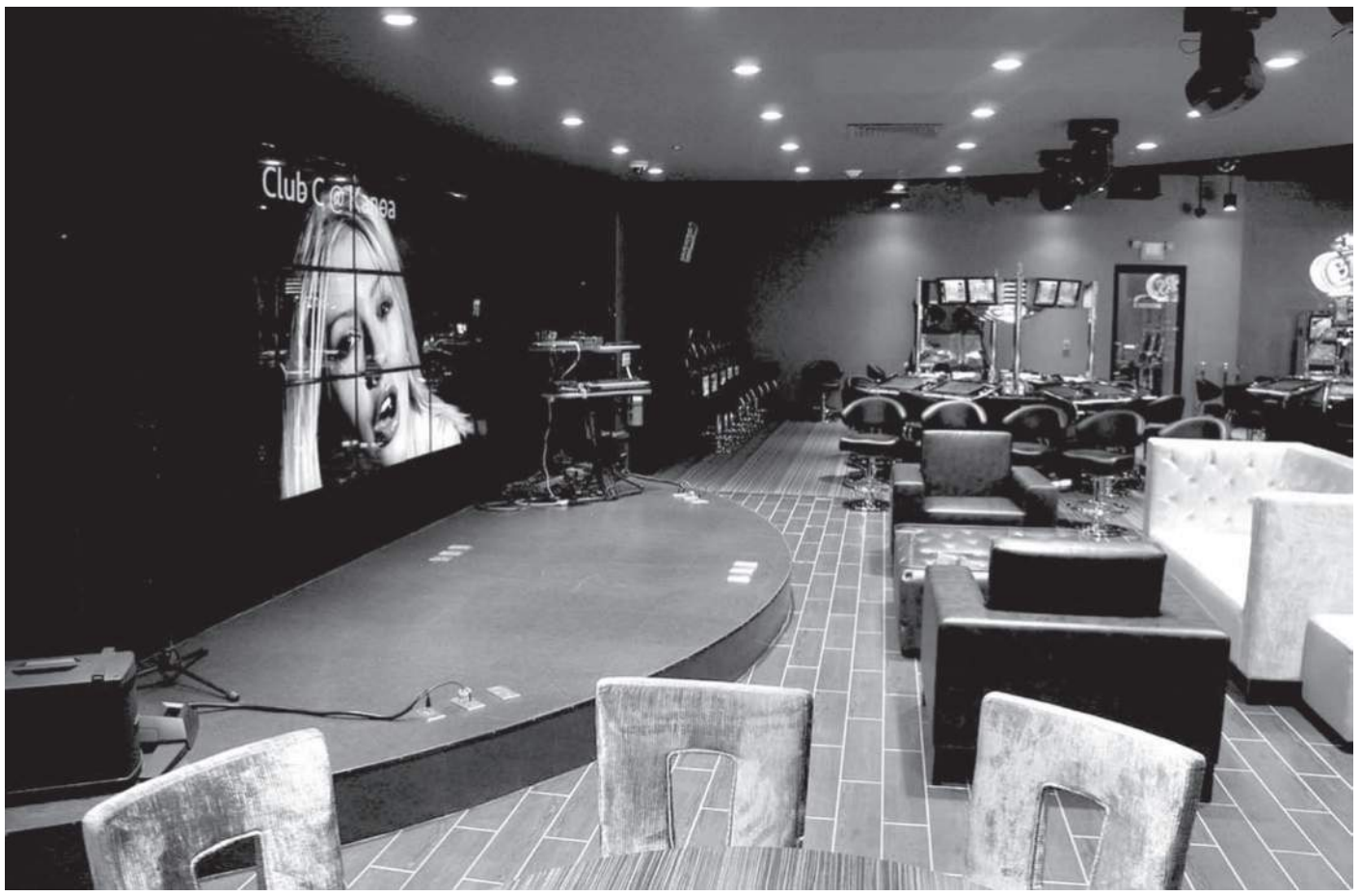
July 8, 2008

Talks on federalization to start with DHS' visit

Officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are expected to arrive Friday to begin talks about the implementation of the new CNMI immigration law. The Department of Homeland Security is the lead agency tasked with drafting the regulations for the application of the "federalization" law, which requires the U.S. government to assume control of local immigration.

27 homeless after fire hits Garapan building

A fire of still unknown cause razed a portion of a commercial building along Middle Road corner Dama Di Noche Street in Garapan yesterday afternoon, rendering 27 persons homeless. No one was reported hurt, based on the initial assessment by police and firefighters. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the fire started inside one of the 14 rooms on the second floor of the three-story building. The rooms were reportedly being used as a barracks by some Chinese. Witnesses said the fire started at 4:30pm. No one was inside the room because of an outage at the time.



A new style of entertainment on Saipan

CLUB C Saipan, a gaming and entertainment venue, located in the 4-star 200-plus-room Kanoa Resort Saipan, opened its doors on Saipan, the capital of the Northern Marianas.

The facility is currently open from 11am to 3am daily, and features 8,000 square feet of entertainment space, gaming machines and stadiumstyle electronic table games with a seating capacity of 200. It will also offer a fusion of live entertainment and a state of the art digital music selection. A stellar international musical group from Macau will be headlining the opening of the Club. Upon entering the club, patrons will be treated to a state of the art sound system, LED screens and video walls projecting a high energy state of mind. A VIP room and a full service bar serving hot meals and refreshments will be available.

CLUB C Saipan comes on the heels of the introduction of the e-gaming law signed in December 2013 on the island of Saipan.

Club C director Juan Guerrero is excited to announce this exciting tourism enhancement for the CNMI. "This venue aims to expand nighttime entertainment and increase tourism spending. Surveys have shown that more evening entertainment options are desired by our visitors. We're offering world-class entertainment, Saipan's largest highdefinition video wall where we will soon be introducing live sporting events, and professional musicians playing the latest Top 40 hits, classics, and jazz music. The ambiance is also unique to Saipan with its ambient lighting, uniquely covered wall treatments, and contemporary furniture. We have some great entertainment promotions starting soon, and extend an invitation to our guests to come over."

CLUB C was created to ensure that gaming operations adhere to strict quality standards, thus the owners engaged an international management team from Macau, IGamiX Management & Consulting Ltd., headed by Ben Lee, to operate the Club to international standards and to provide a first-class tourism facility. "The e-gaming law's main purpose is to increase the local government's tax revenue from its major industry, which is tourism, and further fund capital improvements projects and expenditures, generate more jobs and eventually elevate the reputation of Saipan as a competitive and attractive tourist destination. We've invested $4 million, or $500 per square foot into this facility; we've provided 50 new jobs to locals including retirees; and we're getting ready to remit our first wave of gaming taxes to the government. Saipan has the second highest gaming tax rate in all of Asia after Macau's 39.5 percent rate. We knew that Saipan's gaming tax was high as compared to other Asian nations but we pushed forward with confidence in the CNMI," said Lee.

CLUB C promises to be an exciting destination within a destination, and welcomes everyone to experience a new style of entertainment on Saipan. ***(PR)***

Name: Jie Shuang, Fu
Address: P.O. Box 504996 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 898-2482
(670) 288-6888

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	))))	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0271
L.Z.F., 05/03/2013 Minor Child	))	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	))))	
Jie Shuang, Fu Petitioner	))	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 24, 2014, at 10:30a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 20th day of June, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Century Tours Inc.
Is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

General Manager, Retail (1)
College degree with management major and at least five (5) years of progressive retail management experience. Preferably with experience in managing a high-volume ($10 million+ annual sales) retail establishment.

Operations Manager (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in retail store operations is required. Preferably with management and related experience in merchandising and logistics. Written and verbal communications skills in Chinese (Mandarin) preferred, must be able to communicate with Chinese vendors and suppliers.

Operations Supervisor, China Market (1)
High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent. At least three (3) years work experience as a tour operations staff in a tour/travel agency, preferably with at least two (2) years of experience supervising a team of tour sales agents. Must be able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin).

Accountant (1)
Associate or College degree in Accounting. At least three (3) years work experience in general and financial accounting in a tour operation or sales or service based work environment.

Cashier (1)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least one (1) year work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.

Operations Assistant, China Market (1)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least two (2) years office experience in tour operation or sales or service related work. Must be computer-literate and able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin).

Operations Clerk, China Market (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least one (1) year office experience in travel or tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Must be computer-literate and able to speak and write in Chinese (Mandarin).

Inventory Planner, Retail (1)
College or Associate's degree in a related field or equivalent experience. At least two (2) years planning, distribution and merchandising analysis experience. Proficient in various computer software application and inventory systems.

Supervisor, Retail (2)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. At least three (3) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Visual Merchandiser, Retail (1)
College or Associate's degree in a related field. At least two (2) years experience in visual merchandising and presentation.

Sales Associate, Retail (10)
High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Prior experience in luxury retail sales is preferred including the ability to speak in Chinese (Mandarin). Must be able to lift, carry or otherwise move objects weighing up to 15 pounds.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_ctr@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 11, 2014. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

POI Aviation invites qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (1)
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred.

Accounting Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Financial Management / Accounting with 5 year progressive experience in accounting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required. Airline industry experience preferred.

Administrative Services Officer (1)
Preferably a college graduate with 2 years experience as an Executive Assistant or in a related line of work. Must be computer literate with experience in HRIS, timekeeping systems and preferably with ISO quality management experience.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)
Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Must possess current US FAA A&P license or an equivalent foreign license.

Airport Service Agent (3)
High school diploma or its equivalent with at least 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Must be able to lift 70 pounds.

Airport Service Agent (3)
High school diploma or its equivalent with at least 2 years experience as a passenger service agent or its equivalent.

Airport Service Supervisor (1)
Associate's degree or its equivalent with at least 6 years of progressive airline passenger service experience.

Customer Service Agent (4)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading. Must be able to operate forklift and lift 70 pounds.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (2)
Diploma for technical / vocational course on automotive / diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment.

Load Planning Specialist (1)
Associate's degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operations experience. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Must possess specific airline certification as a load planner.

Senior Accounts Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree with 5-8 years of relevant management experience in the airline ground handling industry Preferably Korean speaking.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)
Associate's degree with 4 years of aircraft load planning experience with specific airline certification as load planner. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)
Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Minimum 2 years supervisory experience.

Technical Operations Manager (1)
Associate's degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years of progressive experience as a licensed A&P Technician and 2 years experience as an auto and diesel mechanic.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 9, 2014. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Israel vs. Hamas: Moving in the wrong direction again?

Is there anything sadder than the killing of children? Of course not, and no one should be surprised at the shock, distress and outrage in Israel after the bodies of three missing teenagers were found Monday. The boys, kidnapped more than two weeks ago, were apparently shot and then partially buried in an open field near the West Bank village of Halhul. What kind of world, what kind of politics, can possibly justify the abduction of teenagers in the name of ideology or nationalism or religion or whatever it turns out was the motivation for this gruesome act?

If, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggests, the kidnappings were the work of Hamas, they should serve as a stark reminder that the militant Islamic organization has not changed its ways. Since its founding during the first intifada in 1987, Hamas has been responsible for countless civilian deaths, and its leaders—notwithstanding their recent reconciliation with the Palestinian Authority—have not evolved substantially since then. Hamas has not officially endorsed a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or promised to renounce violence or acknowledged Israel's right to exist. It's unclear as yet what its role was, if any, in these most recent events, but its top officials loudly celebrated the kidnappings. Hamas obviously cannot be a meaningful partner in the search for peace as long as it remains committed to violence and rejectionism.

At the same time, the killing of the Israeli boys must not become a pretext for further withdrawal from the ailing peace process. If anything, the events of the last two weeks are a heartrending reminder of the high price of disengagement.

"Hamas will pay," Netanyahu vowed after the boys' bodies were found, and indeed, the crackdown is already underway. But Israel must behave carefully and responsibly rather than emotionally. Of course it must defend its citizens against enemies. But Netanyahu must also display the evidence he says he has that Hamas orchestrated the killings. He must minimize civilian casualties and not engage in the collective punishment of people who have done no wrong. He must not undermine those Palestinian leaders, such as President Mahmoud Abbas, who say and do the right things. Israel—as well as the Palestinians—must find reasons to come back to the negotiating table rather than seeking excuses to walk away.

This conflict, like other conflicts around the world, has killed many innocent children. Some are Israeli children who have died at the hands of terrorists. Others are Palestinian children who have become collateral damage in repeated Israeli assaults on Hamas and other groups. The tragedy for parents, for neighbors, for communities is real either way. The latest deaths must not become a justification for an escalation of violence, for the continued death of innocents or for yet another downward spiral in the depressing and destabilizing war that so often seems to be moving in exactly the wrong direction.

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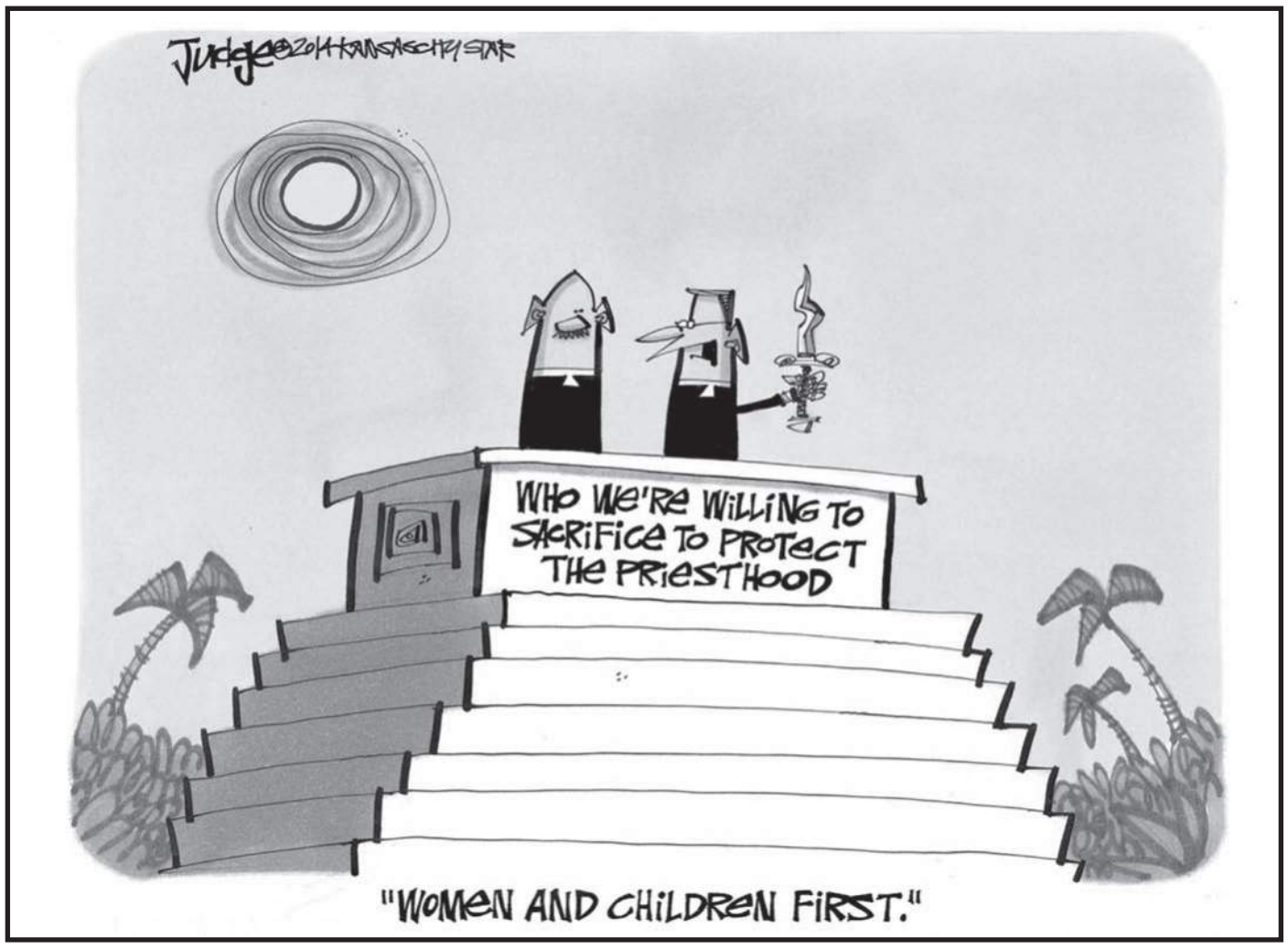
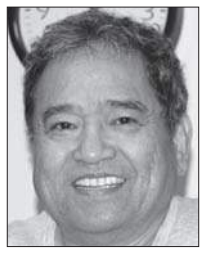


Yah Hoo, Tally Hoo

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



The spelling of the words in our title is intentional, focusing on the phonetic effect more than the proper literary spelling and standard usage. On Calgary Stampede this past weekend, variations of the same were heard all over as a city uses one of its former economic functions to drum up participation in the visitors' industry that obviously attracts a crowd this time of the year.

Geared to the visitors' sector, the city by the confluence of Bow and Elbow rivers relived the region's history of being the cattle marketing and meatpacking center of Canada. In 1912, four wealthy families who received the dominion's grazing rights to attract farmers from the east to the Northwest established the "greatest outdoor show on earth." I wore blue jeans, a wide belt, with a wildly colored cowhand shirt, a wide-brimmed cowboy hat, and a neck pendant (bolo tie), draped a red bandanna, but my feet skipped the cowboy boots.

I visited Calgary in the '70s while living in eastern neighbor Saskatchewan province. Calgary sprawled of agricultural spreads and ranches but the cowboy hats were definitely fashion mainstay among the populace. It was also a center of an emerging energy industry, and many in the parish church where I attend Mass are employed in corporations reaping the short financial gain on a long-term ecological challenge.

The energy industry defined Calgary and Alberta's relationship with its neighbors. I remember when there were more flights from Calgary to Denver and Houston than there were for Toronto and Ottawa. That was very telling.

Last Sunday, my pew seatmate introduced himself as an employee of Husky Oil. Our conversation turned to his views on Russia's signing of a long-term contract with China on the national gas from the Russian Far East to Manchuria where I reside. A pipeline from the fields to Qiqihar in Heilongjiang is already in place. When my Husky Oil acquaintance bid goodbye at church, he revealed that Canada discovered a bounty supply of natural gas, timely for EU, so I said that, perhaps, their company can go easy on the tar sands of Alberta slated for pipeline shipping to the Gulf of Mexico. He just chuckled. More than 80 percent of those I shared coffee with at the parish were dependent on the energy industry, including Suncor that's developing the tar sands' fuel supply and Enbridge that's building the Keystone XL pipeline.

But it is the Rodeo and Exhibition events that drew the crowd during this year's Stampede. The parade on July 4th in the downtown area, marshaled by no other than William Shatner of Star Trek fame early in the morning, launched the 10 days of music, food, excitement, education, friendship, and community.

Functionally, the Stampede began the day before La Fete du Canada, Canada Day on the First of July. Media did not foist a theme. It was participatory, asking everyone, "What is your Canada?" (Google CBC's coverage of Canada Day in the Capital.)

The world's richest (by prize) tournament-style rodeo headlined the events July 4-6. The event's caliber came down to the skill of the competitors and the qualities of wild and untamed horses, bulls and steers. A Stampede original is the chuckwagon race at the Rangeland Derby, which scheduled nine evening heats of pounding hooves and trembling grounds.

The nightly Grandstand Show entertained with amazing technology, music, stunts, pyrotechnics, and stunning sets to captivate an enthralled audience. A 4-H parade, and gathering occurred early where projects were displayed and rodeo riding was youthfully performed. Team penning raced against the clock as the athleticism and skills of horse and rider competed, followed by the blacksmiths' ability tested.

Showcases and displays saw miniature donkeys, stock dogs, cattle trail of the beef industry, equine aristocrats and cowboy challenges, cutting and cow horses with provincial local breeds, miniature horse, draft horse, heavy horse pull, wooly sheep shearing, sheep breeds, agrium ag-tivity, tractors, livestock auction, youth livestock and scholarships.

The Stampede Parade affirmed the excitement mirrored in the Adrenaline Ranch presentations of sky high, gravity defying, and world record stunts at the middle of the Stampede Park. The world-renown Peking Acrobatics performed at the corral show to demonstrate that indeed, the friendly but exciting nature of mosaic Canada can no longer be denied.

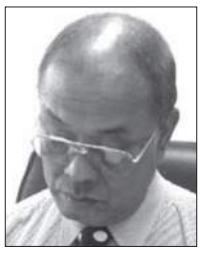
It still came as a surprise that Asians predominate over the Caucasians in Canada's Calgary streets, though not on the Stampede staffing. In a conversation, I mentioned that we should not be too threatened by the "yellow" fever since of five folks on the planet, one is Chinese. I was told that of five people in Calgary, only one now is a Caucasian.

We need not draw the obvious. Saipan's diversity is a rich mosaic, a given reality. Will we ever get the reality humming the same tune, dancing the same beat and lolling under the sun in a canopy of a big story enough to contain us all? Yah Hoo, Tally Hoo!

Mattirun Tiempu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Megai besis na tiempu `nai ha fagcha`e hit tai sinahguan i kanastran esperansa. Fuera de ma`te i tasin inañguho-ta, megaiña na lugat man-añglu` ya inatisa paumata` i bendabat mañglu`.

Todu klasen atte yan laime ta chage umestira haf` tetehnan gi pottanmonedan familia. Ni taimanu na atlibesta i kantida parehu tutat—seru!

Gi mismu sakudida, i sueddota tatnai kahulu` pot 20 años na tiempu. Taimanu tana` nahuñge obligasion familia ni linimus ni todu klasen hatsada gi bandan nesessidat? Na ti pot este na problema muna` mampos didog na sapet gi halom todu familia guine?

Enfin, man-mañoda` tampen sinetnan gi hechuran lai casino. Kulan mohon satbasion lau hombre ni este ti kunibre i mas ke $1.2 biyon pesus na dibin gobietnu pa`gu. Dispues, haf` na todu fondun casino lamayot patte para programan man-ritirau? Ya hafa pot nesessidat edukasion, hinemlu` yan proteksion i tautau siha gi señgsoñg?

Kasse hihihot i tiempu `nai u kahulu` i atdau gi sanlagu. `An masusede pues aregla hamyu sa` guaha un` ira yan destrosiu para u fatoigue hit. Este na munton chinatsaga rekueddon i mansabiun hegsu` I Deni`. No siakassu kau mamadedese i publiku kontat ke maresisibe $60-mit esta $90-mit gi sakan. Haf` ti u fan kayus umupus i didog na pinadesen i publiku ni finañagon diskuidun niha!

Gi puntan tasi

Maseha maya` i buttu siha gi puntan tasi, gaige guennau manfitme siha na kometsiante ni siña tumulaika kinalamten tano`ta. Yangin ta sedi manhalom, libianu hinanauta dispues de tres años `nai sige humalom fondu siha para ta kubre mas manpresisu na nesessidatta.

Enfin, ha nesessita este na bisnis man-dañkulu man-estudiau yan eksperiensiau gi che`chu kada bisnis ni para tana` halom. Todu pakete u fan ma-esplika pot para u guaha kinemprende gi anaku` na benefisiu gi tautau i hinalom petmanente na añklan ekonomia guine. Estagu` ta nesessita pa`gu.

Dimasiau na diskuidu ginen mansabiun i hegsu` I Deni` pot siete años na tiempu. Poresu na didog na te`ug na pinadese gi todu familia guine!

Katman yan silensiu

Sige amiguhu Muron umensinahyau sin direksion. `Nai dumeskansan ñaihon hu faisen hafa guaha. Ha tanchu` papa` i aniñeñgña. Era ma`añau pot tinatitiye maseha manugue` guatu.

Ilegña i prohimu na ha taitai tinige`hu pot lastron deñgdeñg ya tiyaña haf` piniloña gi santatte. Sige ham dispues kumonbetsasion. Hu sañgane para u falag un` silensiu na patte giya siha ya una` katman ñaihon hinassoña. Ha faisenyu` haf` kumeke ileghu estake ha huñgog guinaifen silensiu?

Hu esplika na i tasi `an katma kulan laña. Kontodu ininan kalulot pulan siña un` li`e `an chatagmag. I guinaifen mañglu, suabe. Esta siña un` huñgog i mañglu` ni gumagapot i hagun niyog yan gagu. Silensiu yan katma i lugat. "Este na katma yan silensiu debi un` pega gi hinassomu diariu".

Eyag muna` pas hinassomu kosake siña un` timon galaide`mu gi halom chubasku. Entrega inañgoghomu gi Saina diariu. Hafa na gi finatinas un` botin hayu siña kumarera gi halom taduñg tasi dispues kulan mafa` chalane? Guaha `nai in` hassu este?

Didog na triniste

Ginen un` tiempu sumen ma`gas. Pa`gu, parehu galun mame otdinariu na sudadanu. Lau ha chu`otyu` i huli`e kulan didog na hinassu `sino sinetsut gi mataña `nai ha a`atan hulu` hegsu` Tagpochau antes de u ma`udai gi batkon aire. Magpu` i nobena, lisayu kontodu misan tatte `nai mamaisa ha` i prohimu.

Magahet na hana` ma`ase`yu` sa` magof na matan tautau otdinariamente antes. Taigue esta ayu na minagof gi mataña. Kulan sessu pa`gu ginacha` didog hinassu. Kau sinetsut? Po`lu tasede i prohimu ya u o`mag fresku gi halom katman sadog hinassoña. Hu diseseha lokue` na ti u famadese minaipen tautau sa` estague` na kastigu i mas makat.

Hu diseseha pas para i prohimu pot guiya solamismu u fanna`e kuenta gi malabidaña! Guaha siha otru man-mamatcha hihot gi tateña. Adahe pinakat miyu sa` palagse i katsada!

Maliñgun kustumbre

Hana` chatsagayu` i hinanau hagas lancheru siha guine. Teñga `an hu bisita guaha fina` mañge` na neñgkanu` natibu esta maprepara para bisita. Mana` amotsa `sino miriendayu`. Gigon hu kaikaiyu` para bai hanau, mana`eyu` fina` gulusina, golai, agu`un haya pat tinala` guihan yan katne para i mañainahu.

Taigue esta este na kustumbre kulan mohon machule` hanau ni uttimu mañainata ni umusune man-gualu` antes. Hu sen agradese ayu na kustumbre pot un` rason: Bendision ginen ayu siha na man-amko`ta yan sensian gineftau ginen i gualu`. Todu i tiempu i kusinan niha a`asu. Gigon fresku dispues de talo`ane, ha bira siha i dos amku` tatte gi hatdin manrimpesa `sino mananum.

Maliñgu este na modun linala` natibu kontodu i bendision ginen i man-mofo`na. Si Yuus u fan binendise pot todu i konkariñu yan gineftau miyu.

Asian-Americans and the 1964 Civil Rights Act

By BILL LANN LEE and CHRISTOPHER PUNONGBAYAN
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

On the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, let's remember that it protected not just African-Americans. The legislation, enacted by Congress on July 2 of that year, broadly outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin.

This was altogether fitting and proper, for racial prejudice has extended beyond the brutality of slavery and Jim Crow that African-Americans experienced.

Asian-Americans, for instance, have also suffered.

In the late 19th century, Chinese-Americans in California and elsewhere in the West faced discrimination in the workplace and in schools and the housing market. And they often had to fend off racist attacks.

Japanese and Filipino immigrants endured similar maltreatment upon their arrival.

And during World War II, President Roosevelt incarcerated more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans in internment camps although they posed no national security threat.

Shortly after 9/11, South Asian-Americans, Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans became fused together as public enemy number one and faced unprecedented levels of deportation and surveillance, as well as discrimination and violence in the workplace, schools and even their own homes.

Today, Asian-Americans, with a population of more than 18 million, still face stereotypes and are under suspicion as national security risks.

And the doors aren't as open as they used to be.

In the 1960s, Asian-Americans made huge strides in admissions to the University of California, for instance, after they were included in affirmative action plans. While many Asian-Americans can now attend college without the help of affirmative action programs, others cannot. For many African-American, Latino and Southeast Asian students, including Cambodians, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Hmong and Laotians, the hope of going to college is more distant than ever.

The job market is also biased. Once hired, Asian-Americans often bump up against the glass ceiling in promotions. Nationally, Asian-Americans have greater educational attainment—including graduate and professional degrees—but lower per capita income and fewer managerial jobs than whites with the same education. Asian-Americans are often stereotyped as hard workers but not leadership material or aggressive enough to be managers and entrepreneurs.

Communities of color have borne the brunt of racial inequalities meted out by our immigration system. The notorious Chinese Exclusion Act is gone, but the Immigration Reform and Control Act bars immigrants from working without authorization.

Today, there are 1 million undocumented Asian-Americans who cannot legally work. A quarter million of the 2 million individuals deported since 2008 were immigrants of Asian descent.

Our civil rights protections provide no remedy for discriminatory immigration laws. We must modernize our civil rights protections to prevent racial discrimination in our immigration system.

Fifty years after the Civil Rights Act, Asian-Americans, like other minorities, have much to celebrate, but not yet true equal justice under law. All Americans of good will should keep striving for that goal.

Bill Lann Lee is the former assistant attorney general for civil rights in the U.S. Department of Justice. Christopher Punongbayan is the executive director of Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus. They wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call your lawmakers today!

Monday, July 7, at 11:10am, over 4,200 signatures were submitted to the AG's office in favor for a referendum for Public Laws 18-30, 18-38, and 18-43. All signatures were collected in an effort to put these laws on the ballot in November for all CNMI voters to decide. All signatures were collected so the people could have a voice in the laws that affect them.

All three laws in these referendums deal with gaming in the CNMI, be it electronic or casino.

All three laws were passed by our Legislature without the consent of the people. There were no public hearings for public comments. These laws were passed quickly and without the transparency required by the Open Government Act—the same Act that over 9,000 voters voted loud and clear for in the last election.

All three laws affect every person on these beautiful islands. The democratic process provides the people with a voice on issues that affect the populace. This referendum process is that voice.

Today, July 8, 2014, at 1:30pm, there is a House session that could change the course of the people's voice. Today the house *could* vote to repeal and reenact the casino gaming law in House Bill 18-95.

If they do this, they will in effect *silence* the *people* of the CNMI.

By repealing and reenacting this casino law, the lawmakers will rob the people of the referendum process and their constitutional right to vote on this issue. If they repeal and reenact this casino law, they will nullify the referendum process, because July 7 was the final day to submit a referendum for this November. There is no time to go and get signatures to put 18-95 on the ballot in November because the deadline is passed.

I ask all voters to contact their legislators *this morning* to vote "no" to 18-95. If they are successful at repealing and reenacting the casino law today, we will *not* get to vote in November.

We must protect the referendum process, or our lawmakers can and will thwart the will of the people anytime they see fit. This is *not* democracy.

Leila Staffler
Kagman III, Saipan

Hey, Gary DuBrall

Congratulations! You've made it to the A list. Hundreds of readers of the local newspapers now bypass your never-ending missives, and for good reason.

You have accomplished in the few short months since you came back to Saipan what it took years for Ambrose I-Told-You-So Bennett and John The-Jailbird-With-Too-Much-Time-On-His-Hands Pangelinan to do. Readers see your name at the bottom of a letter to the editor and automatically skip to the next letter.

Like them, you seem convinced that you are the arbiter of good judgment and a storehouse of knowledge others marvel at. You also labor under the delusion that the rest of us want to hear your opinion about everything every day. Flash…no we don't. In fact you've become the butt of the same kind of jokes Ambrose gets heaped on him. Your writing style is a bit better, but your content has the same proselytizing reformer message that drips from both the other too-frequent letter writers.

Lest you think that this letter is just an individual *ad hominem* attack, please rest assured that while I do disagree with most of your predictable I Know Everything opinions, most of my acquaintances that generally agree with your unhappy white guy-style ramblings now also tune you out.

I assume you write these because you think others read them. Those with patience did read the first 20 or 30 but have since put the mental blue pencil line through your daily offering. So do yourself a favor. Get a job or get a hobby or just put a cork in it for a while. Save a tree.

I'm guessing that you will read this, get all upset, and want to pen a rebuttal letter to say I'm closed-minded or take aim at my overuse of the hyphen or some such drivel. Save yourself that effort too, Gary, as you can be sure I won't be reading it. You could announce that I was the lucky winner of a million smackers but I would miss the message…for years.

Frank Mitchell
Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

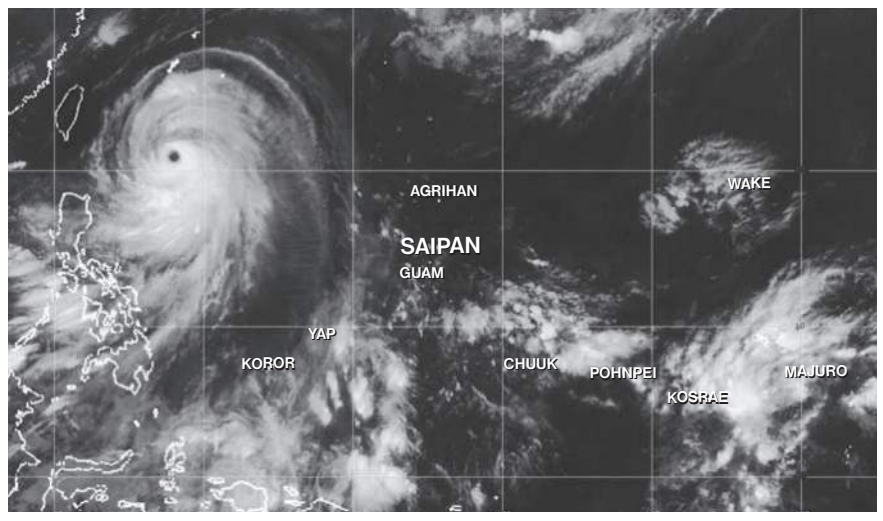
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲58	▼57
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲85	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲51	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲91	▼75
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73
Paris	Rain	▲70	▼55
Pusan	Rain	▲76	▼73
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲91	▼76
Tokyo	Showers	▲83	▼73
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲96	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Neoguri (08W) is centered about 1065 miles west-northwest of the Marianas at 21N128E moving northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 155 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of a line from 21N132E to 20N134E to 11N131E. For more information on Neoguri, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror between 4N and the equator from 130E to 137E. A pronounced surface trough runs southward from 11N141E to EQ139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present over parts of Yap State between 11N and the equator from 137E to 144E. An upper-level low centered southwest of Wake Island near 17N162E is triggering isolated thunderstorms mainly west of Wake Island between 21N and 16N from 160E to 166E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of the Marianas and north of Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 11N146E to 8N158E farther east. Scattered showers are found over Majuro between 10N and 4N from 170E to the date line. A trade-wind disturbance combined with upper-level divergence south of the upper-level low near Wake Island is creating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands and Kosrae between 11N and the equator from 160E to 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:35 PM	1:35 AM
Wednesday	3:33 PM	2:24 AM
Thursday	4:33 PM	3:18 AM
Friday	5:33 PM	4:17 AM
Saturday	6:33 PM	5:19 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

DENNIS B. CHAN
Ensign David McVay describes the uses of some of the instruments he works with everyday as navigation officer of the *Oscar Elton Sette*.

DENNIS B. CHAN
Children and parents look at the samples stored in *Oscar Elton Sette's* "wet" lab. Families like these toured the research vessel as part of an open house last Saturday.

NOAA research vessel opens doors to the public

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Groups of children, students, and adults toured the *Oscar Elton Sette*, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessel, last Saturday at Charlie Dock in Puerto Rico.

The vessel had just finished the first leg of its 30-day research in the Northern Islands.

The first leg lasted from June 19 to July 3 and included research on fishery resources around the islands of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion.

Scientists and crew who were apart of the expedition led tour groups around the *Sette*, explaining various parts of the ship important to its operations and the scientific research done aboard.

The vessel's crew is led by Lt. Commander Stephanie Koes, its commanding officer, while the research group was led by Dr. Robert Humphrey, chief scientist on the trip.

Tom Castro, one of those who toured the ship, said the open house offered "a better perspective of what was going on up there [in the Northern Islands]." Castro would like to see more open houses like these to give the public more ideas for career opportunities.

Ensign David McVay, the navigation officer of the *Sette*, explained to the visiting group the education and experience needed in order to man the NOAA vessel. He said a bachelor's degree in mathematics or science combined with maritime experience allowed him to work on the vessel. He had worked for the Coast Guard for four and a half years.

Guides like McVay took groups across the deck, up ladders, and different rooms of the ship. Rooms like the "wet" lab are where scientists store fish and fish parts they collect for study.

Humphreys explained they take the otolith, the ear bone of a fish, to study marks on the bone that help determine a fish's age and longevity. He hopes the data can tell scientists about the lives and sizes of the fisheries being studied.

McVay explained the uses of research instruments like the Conductivity Temperature Depth Cast, or CTD, which collects water samples from the ocean at various depths.

The CTD is attached to a cable up to 2,000 meters long and is comprised of sampling bottles equipped with depth sensors. At various depths, sensors are triggered and a bottle's cap pops open to collect samples that can be used to measure oxygen, temperature, salinity, and pH at different depth.

Other features of the tour were small outdriven boats stationed on deck and hydrochemistry and computer labs used by the scientists.

The research vessel is 224 feet long and 43 feet wide and has a cruising speed of 10.5 knots. The vessel had around 20 scientists and 20 crewmembers on their trip north, according to Koes.

John Manahan, a 5th grader from Oleai Elementary School, who came with a group of friends his age, said he enjoyed the open house and found the scientists and crews living quarters to be the most interesting part. "It was fun," he added.

Hung "Doc" Tran, the only physician on the vessel, was there to greet groups in the mess hall where brochures detailing NOAA careers and programs and refreshments awaited visitors.

One program was "NOAA Teacher At Sea," which brings hands-on ocean research experience to students in the classroom. For more information see http:/teacheratsea.noaa.gov.

The *Sette* supports NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Honolulu Laboratory and does its research in the Western Pacific.

The vessel is named after O.E. Sette, the first director of the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services Honolulu laboratory. He is known to many fisheries scientists as the father and pioneer of modern fisheries oceanography in the United States.

DENNIS B. CHAN
Dr. Robert Humphreys, of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, answers questions on fish samples caught during research in the waters of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion.

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Memory of

PEDRO PABLO CAMACHO SABLAN

"Pedron' Anda"

June 29, 1923 to July 5, 2014
Of Gualo Rai was called by our Heavenly Father at the age of 91

Mass of Intentions are offered daily at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church

In his new life, Pedro Pablo will be met at the heavenly gates by his:

Wife: †Alejandra Castro Sablan

Parents: †Jose S. & †Nieves C. Sablan

Parents-In-Law: †Francisco M. & †Asuncion S. Castro

Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws: †**Oswald C.** & †Josepha T. Sablan; †**Esperanza S.** & +Mariano G. Cabrera; †**Francisco C.** & +Regina L. Sablan; †**Carmen S.** & +Antonio D. Reyes; **Rosa S.** & William S. Torres; †**Felipe C.** & +Joaquina C. Sablan; †**Jose C.** & +Antonia K. Sablan; †**Maria C.** Sablan; †Jesus T. Salas; and †**Juan C.** Sablan

Brother-in-law & Sister-In-Law: †Miguel S. **&** †Candelaria M. Castro

Children: †**Josephine** C. Sablan **&** †**Juan** C. Sablan

Grandson: †Vincent R. Sablan

Survived by his children and their families:

Frank C. & Rita A. Sablan (Sonnie & Natalia, Nen & Ze)

Edward C. & Frances M. Sablan (Annale & Joseph, Edward John & Annette)

David C. & Evelyn P. Sablan (Polly Ann & Jack, David, Matt & Francine, Mia)

Roy C. & Ruth T. Sablan (Sophia & Floyd, Peter Thorn)
Stephanie R. Sablan (Juan R. Jr. & Cici, Peter, Joseph)

Asuncion S. & Alex A. Aldan (Ashley & Jason, Alex Jr, Alexandra)

Antonette S. & Gregory F. Camacho (Audrey, Andrea, Alejandra)

Reared child: Michael Anthony Sablan

Sister: Fidelia S. Salas

Additionally survived by 18 great grandchildren, numerous cousins, nephews and nieces & godchildren

Last respects for the late Pedro Pablo C. Sablan will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2014 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. ***Mass*** of Christian burial will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetary.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i familia

Business

AP

Jay Palmer, a whistleblower against Infosys, an Indian firm that eventually paid a hefty fine for H1 B visa infractions, poses during a New York visit, Thursday July 3, 2014.

Backlash stirs in US against

FOREIGN WORKER VISAS

By LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ and PAUL WISEMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kelly Parker was thrilled when she landed her dream job in 2012 providing tech support for Harley-Davidson's Tomahawk, Wisconsin, plants. The divorced mother of three hoped it was the beginning of a new career with the motorcycle company.

The dream didn't last long. Parker claims she was laid off one year later after she trained her replacement, a newly arrived worker from India. Now she has joined a federal lawsuit alleging the global staffing firm that ran Harley-Davidson's tech support discriminated against American workers—in part by replacing them with temporary workers from South Asia.

The firm, India-based Infosys Ltd., denies wrongdoing and contends, as many companies do, that it has faced a shortage of talent and specialized skill sets in the U.S. Like other firms, Infosys wants Congress to allow even more of these temporary workers.

But amid calls for expanding the nation's so-called H-1B visa program, there is growing pushback from Americans who argue the program has been hijacked by staffing companies that import cheaper, lower-level workers to replace more expensive U.S. employees—or keep them from getting hired in the first place.

"It's getting pretty frustrating when you can't compete on salary for a skilled job," said Rich Hajinlian, a veteran computer programmer from the Boston area. "You hear references all the time that these big companies ... can't find skilled workers. I am a skilled worker."

Hajinlian, 56, who develops his own web applications on the side, said he applied for a job in April through a headhunter and that the potential client appeared interested, scheduling a longer interview. Then, said Hajinlian, the headhunter called back and said the client had gone with an H-1B worker whose annual salary was about $10,000 less.

"I didn't even get a chance to negotiate down," he said.

The H-1B program allows employers to temporarily hire workers in specialty occupations. The government issues up to 85,000 H-1B visas to businesses every year, and recipients can stay up to six years. Although no one tracks exactly how many H-1B holders are in the U.S., experts estimate there are at least 600,000 at any one time. Skilled guest workers can also come in on other types of visas.

An immigration bill passed in the U.S. Senate last year would have increased the number of annually available H-1B visas to 180,000 while raising fees and increasing oversight, although language was removed that would have required all companies to consider qualified U.S. workers before foreign workers are hired.

The House never acted on the measure. With immigration reform considered dead this year in Congress, President Barack Obama last week declared he will use executive actions to address some changes. It is not known whether the H-1B program will be on the agenda.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is among the high-profile executives pushing for more H-1Bs. The argument has long been that there aren't enough qualified American workers to fill certain jobs, especially in science, engineering and technology. Advocates also assert that some visa holders will stay and become entrepreneurs.

Critics say there is no across-the-board shortage of American tech workers, and that if there were, wages would be rising rapidly. Instead, wage gains for software developers have been modest, while wages have fallen for programmers.

The liberal Economic Policy Institute reported last year that only half of U.S. college graduates in science, engineering and technology found jobs in those fields and that at least one third of IT jobs were going to foreign guest workers.

The top users of H-1B visas aren't even tech companies like Google and Facebook. Eight of the 10 biggest H1-B users last year were outsourcing firms that hire out thousands of mostly lower- and mid-level tech workers to corporate clients, according to an analysis of federal data by Ron Hira, an associate professor of public policy at Rochester Institute of Technology. The top 10 firms accounted for about a third of the H-1Bs allotted last year.

The debate over whether foreign workers are taking jobs isn't new, but for years it centered on low-wage sectors like agriculture and construction. The high-skilled visas have thrust a new sector of American workers into the fray: the middle class.

Last month, three tech advocacy groups launched a labor boycott against Infosys, IBM and the global staffing and consulting company ManpowerGroup, citing a "pattern of excluding U.S. workers from job openings on U.S soil."

They say Manpower, for example, last year posted U.S. job openings in India but not in the United States.

"We have a shortage in the industry all right—a shortage of fair and ethical recruiting and hiring," said Donna Conroy, director of Bright Future Jobs, a group of tech professionals fighting to end what it calls "discriminatory hiring that is blocking us ... from competing for jobs we are qualified to do."

"U.S. workers should have the freedom to compete first for job openings," Conroy said.

Infosys spokesman Paul de Lara responded that the firm encourages "diversity recruitment," while spokesman Doug Shelton said IBM considers all qualified candidates "without regard to citizenship and immigration status." Manpower issued a statement saying it "adopts the highest ethical standards and complies with all applicable laws and regulations when hiring individuals."

Much of the backlash against the H-1B and other visa programs can be traced to whistleblower Jay Palmer, a former Infosys employee. In 2011, Palmer supplied federal investigators with information that helped lead to Infosys paying a record $34 million settlement last year. Prosecutors had accused the company of circumventing the law by bringing in lower-paid workers on short-term executive business visas instead of using H-1B visas.

Last year, IBM paid $44,000 to the U.S. Justice Department to settle allegations its job postings expressed a preference for foreign workers. And a September trial is set against executives at the staffing company Dibon Solutions, accused of illegally bringing in foreign workers on H-1B visas without having jobs for them—a practice known as "benching."

In court papers, Parker claims that she was given positive reviews by supervisors, including at Infosys, which she maintains oversaw her work and the decision to let her go. The only complaint: Her desk was messy and she'd once been late.

Neither Parker nor other workers involved in similar lawsuits and contacted by The Associated Press would discuss their cases.

Parker's attorney, Dan Kotchen, noted that the case centers on discrimination based on national origin but said that "hiring visa workers is part of how they obtain their discriminatory objectives."

Infosys is seeking a dismissal, in part on grounds that it never hired or fired Parker. Parker was hired by a different subcontractor and kept on, initially, after Infosys began working with Harley-Davidson.

A company spokeswoman said Infosys has about 17,000 employees in the U.S., about 25 percent U.S. hires. In filings to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said it has more than 22,000 employees with valid temporary work visas, some not in the U.S.

Stanford University Law School fellow Vivek Wadwha, a startup adviser, said firms are so starved for talent they are buying up other companies to obtain skilled employees. If there's a bias against Americans, he said, it's an age bias based on the fact that older workers may not have the latest skills. More than 70 percent of H-1B petitions approved in 2012 were for workers between the ages of 25 and 34.

"If workers don't constantly retrain themselves, their skills become obsolete," he said.

Norm Matloff, a computer science professor at the University of California, Davis, agreed that age plays into it—not because older workers are less skilled but because they typically require higher pay. Temporary workers also tend to be cheaper because they don't require long-term health care for dependents and aren't around long enough to get significant raises, he said.

Because they can be deported if they lose their jobs, these employees are often loath to complain about working conditions. And even half the standard systems analyst salary in the U.S. is above what an H-1B holder would earn back home.

Such circumstances concern Americans searching for work in a still recovering economy.

Jennifer Wedel of Fort Worth, Texas, publicly challenged Obama on the visa issue in 2012, making headlines when she asked him via a public online chat about the number of foreign workers being hired—given that her husband, a semiconductor engineer, couldn't find work.

Wedel said her husband eventually found a job in the health care industry, taking a $40,000 pay cut.

"It's a slap in the face to every American who worked hard to get their experience and degrees and has 10 or 15 years of experience," she said, adding that firms want that experience but don't want to pay for it.

To her, the issue isn't about a shortage of workers who have the right skills. Put simply, she said: "It's the money."

Nation

TSA: Some on US-bound flights must turn on phones

WASHINGTON (AP)—Passengers at some overseas airports that offer U.S.-bound flights will be required to power on their electronic devices in order to board their flights, the Transportation Security Administration said Sunday.

The TSA said it is requiring some overseas airports to have passengers turn on devices such as cellphones before boarding. It says devices that won't power up won't be allowed on planes, and those travelers may have to undergo additional screening.

"As the traveling public knows, all electronic devices are screened by security officers," the TSA said in the release announcing the new steps.

American intelligence officials have been concerned about new al-Qaida efforts to produce a bomb that would go undetected through airport security. There is no indication that such a bomb has been created or that there's a specific threat to the U.S.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently ordered the TSA to call for extra security measures at some international airports with direct flights to the United States. TSA does not conduct screening abroad, but has the ability to set screening criteria and processes for flights flying to the U.S. from abroad, according to a Department of Homeland Security official, who was not allowed to discuss the changes publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

During an interview aired Sunday on NBC'S "Meet The Press," Johnson declined to speculate on whether new security procedures called for overseas will be required at domestic airports in the future

"We continue to evaluate things," he said. "The screening we have right domestically from one domestic airport to another is pretty robust as the American traveling public knows. In this instance we felt that it was important to crank it up some at the last point of departure airports and we'll continually evaluate the situation."

TSA will not disclose which airports will be conducting the additional screening, although it will be at some airports with direct flights to the U.S. Industry data show that more than 250 foreign airports offer nonstop service to the U.S.

Aviation remains an attractive target to global terrorists, who are consistently looking for ways to circumvent aviation security measures, the DHS official said. Some details on specific enhancements and locations are sensitive because U.S. officials do not want to give information "to those who would do us harm," the official said.

American intelligence officials said earlier this week that they have picked up indications that bomb makers from Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula have traveled to Syria to link up with the al-Qaida affiliate there.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula long has been fixated on bringing down airplanes with hidden explosives. It was behind failed and thwarted plots involving suicide bombers with explosives designed to be hidden inside underwear and explosives secreted inside printer cartridges shipped on cargo planes.

Over the past year, Americans and others from the West have traveled to Syria to join the fight against the Syrian government. The fear is that fighters with a U.S. or other Western passport, who therefore are subject to less stringent security screening, could carry such a bomb onto an American plane.

Electric cord sparked fire that killed NYC firefighter

NEW YORK (AP)—A high-rise blaze that killed a fire lieutenant started in a pinched electrical cord in a cluttered apartment, fire officials said Sunday, adding that the fire had been ruled accidental.

An air-conditioner cord was pinned between a bed frame and a wall in the 19th-floor Brooklyn apartment, where Lt. Gordon Ambelas became trapped while looking for possible victims, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said in a statement as investigators probed the conflagration responsible for the Fire Department of New York's first line-of-duty death in more than two years.

"Though the cause and origin of the fire has been determined, the Department's investigation remains ongoing," Nigro added in a statement. A pinched electrical cord can fray or otherwise become damaged enough to spark a fire if it's near combustible items, especially if heat builds up in a tight space.

Earlier Sunday, firefighters solemnly hung flag bunting at the Brooklyn firehouse where Ambelas had worked for the last several months of his 14-year career as residents returned to the building where he had died.

The fire broke out around 9:30 p.m. Saturday in the apartment, near the top of a 21-story building owned by the New York City Housing Authority. Flames spread to the 17th and 18th floors.

The apartment was crowded with belongings, making searches difficult, the Fire Department said.

"Ambelas went into the apartment to search for life and did not come out, and by the time his brother firefighters found him, it was too late for him," Nigro said earlier Sunday.

Fellow firefighters found Ambelas unconscious and carried him out of the building. They worked with emergency rescuers to try to revive him, but he died at a hospital, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

"New York City and the FDNY suffered a terrible and tragic loss," he said.

Two other firefighters and two residents were treated for minor injuries.

The Housing Authority said in a statement Sunday that it was working with firefighters on the investigation; the agency didn't answer questions about what fire prevention devices might have been in the apartment.

A light smell of smoke hung in the air outside the building Sunday as investigators went about their work and residents came back.

Steven Jimenez, 15, had been returning from a cookout to his ninth-floor apartment when he saw flames in a 19th-floor window. As he waited outside, he watched as a bandaged Ambelas was carried out, he said.

"It looked scary ... and it was scary that it happened in my neighborhood," said Jimenez, who ultimately spent the night at a friend's home.

California shark bite victim feared for his life

AP

In this photo by Laura Joyce of goofyfootphotography.com, two men carry a swimmer, second from right, after he was bitten by a great white shark, as lifeguards close in at left in the ocean off Southern California's Manhattan Beach, Saturday, July 5, 2014.

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Steven Robles was an hour into his regular weekend swim off some of Southern California's most popular beaches when he came face-to-face with a great white shark.

The 7-foot-long juvenile had been trying to free itself from a fisherman's hook for about half an hour.

"It came up to the surface, it looked at me and attacked me right on the side of my chest," Robles told KABC-TV. "That all happened within two seconds, I saw the eyes of the shark as I was seeing it swim toward me. It lunged at my chest, and it locked into my chest."

As a reflex, he tried to pry open the shark's mouth.

"I was like, `Oh my God, this is it. Oh my God, I'm going to die. This is really, this is it,'" Robles told CNN.

And then, just as quickly as it struck, the shark let go and swam away.

Robles was familiar with the waters of the Southern California coast. His Saturday morning routine included a swim from Hermosa Beach north to Manhattan Beach with fellow amateur distance swimmers, and last summer he completed a difficult swim approximately 20 miles from Santa Catalina Island to the Rancho Palos Verdes peninsula to raise money for a school in Nicaragua.

Robles had been going for 2 miles with about a dozen friends Saturday when he encountered the shark around 9:30 a.m., fellow swimmer Nader Nejadhashemi said Sunday.

"He said `I've been bit,' and he was screaming," said Nejadhashemi, who didn't see the shark even though he was just 5 feet away.

At first Nejadhashemi thought it must be a cramp. "Then," he said, "I saw the blood."

Nejadhashemi reached his friend and checked that "all his extremities were intact," then comforted him as others in the group flagged a nearby paddle boarder.

"I don't know how we managed to push him on the paddle board but we did," he said. Once several surfers came over to help pull the board in, Robles was on his way to the shore, where paramedics treated his wounds.

He was taken to the hospital but by Sunday morning had been released. Robles did not return messages left Sunday at several numbers listed under his name.

The shark remained in the area for about 20 minutes and then disappeared into the murky water, said Rick Flores, a Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman. The beaches—crowded for the warm holiday weekend—remained open, but a mile-long stretch was temporarily off-limits to swimmers. Police also prohibited fishing from the pier where the fisherman hooked the shark until Tuesday.

It's illegal to fish for great white sharks. The fisherman told several local media that he was trying to catch a bat ray, not a shark, and that he didn't cut the line sooner because of how many swimmers were in the water. It wasn't immediately clear whether the wildlife officials were investigating; a department spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

Shark sightings are on the rise at some Southern California beaches, especially in the waters off Manhattan Beach, which is a popular spot for surfers and paddle boarders but also has long been identified as a pupping ground for white sharks. A life-sized model of a white shark is displayed outside an aquarium on the pier, with an explanation that juvenile sharks are common in the area.

Shark attacks are rare. Since 1950, there have been 101 great white shark attacks on humans off California—13 of them resulted in deaths, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

Also Saturday morning, about 200 miles up the California coast, an unidentified shark bit a surfer's board in the Pacific off Oceano. Teeth marks suggested the shark was about 8 feet, said Brent Marshall, superintendent of the Oceano Dunes state park district. The surfer was uninjured.

On Sunday, Manhattan beach was again crowded, and surfers sat offshore in the water on another warm day.

Asia

Strong typhoon threatens north Philippines, Japan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A strong typhoon was blowing over the Pacific Ocean in the northeastern Philippines on Sunday and may induce heavy rains, but is too far off to hit land, officials said.

Typhoon Neoguri was blowing with sustained winds of 185 kilometers (115 miles) per hour and gusts of 220 kph (136 mph) late Sunday about 840 kilometers (522 miles) off Cagayan, a rice- and tobacco-producing province, said government weather forecaster Glaiza Escullar.

The storm is expected to blow northwest and will be about 500 kilometers (310 miles) northeast of Batanes province in the Philippines' northern tip on Monday. It will then likely blow toward southern Japan later in the week, Escullar said.

Alexander Pama, who heads the Philippines' disaster-response agency, warned fishing boats and small sea vessels not to venture off the country's eastern coast.

While no public disaster warnings have been issued, officials said Neoguri would enhance the southwest monsoon and possibly bring heavy rains and thunderstorms to the northern Philippines. Pama urged landslide- and flood-prone northern villages to closely monitor weather reports.

Neoguri is the sixth storm to hit the country this year and the first of the rainy season, which began last month. About 20 typhoons and less powerful storms batter the Philippines each year, making it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

The nation is still struggling to recover from Typhoon Haiyan, which killed at least 6,300 people, left more than 1,000 missing and displaced 4 million in the central Philippines last November.

Pakistan: 5 indicted in woman's stoning death

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The father of a pregnant Pakistani woman who was stoned to death and four other men have been charged with killing her after she married against the family's wishes and their trial was set to begin on Monday, police said.

Farzana Parveen, 25, was killed May 27 before a crowd of onlookers near a downtown courthouse in the eastern city of Lahore. A mob beat her with bricks and killed her as she was on her way to court to contest an abduction case her family had filed against her husband.

A Pakistani court indicted her father, two brothers, a cousin and a man who claimed he had been married to Parveen on charges of murder and torture on Saturday. All five men pleaded not guilty, according to Mian Zulfiqar, the police investigator.

The trial will begin on Monday when the court has called on prosecution witnesses to appear, said Zulfiqar. He said police and doctors who conducted the autopsy of the victim would be among those testifying. "We have a strong case against the suspects but it is up to the court how to take view of our investigation," he said.

The case has brought international attention to violence against women in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where hundreds of women are killed by relatives each year in so-called "honor killings" carried out by husbands or relatives as a punishment for alleged adultery or other illicit sexual behavior. Arranged marriages are the norm among conservative Pakistanis, and Parveen's family was angry she married Mohammed Iqbal for love.

A DAY IN THE LIFE AP

A Filipino boy sits on bamboo after playing with his friends at the murky waters of Manila's bay, Philippines Sunday, July 6, 2014.

Afghan candidates spar over release of results

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's election crisis deepened Sunday as the two presidential candidates sparred over the release of preliminary results and calls mounted for a broader investigation of suspect ballots amid allegations of massive fraud.

The impasse has threatened to undermine what the U.S. and its allies had hoped would be the country's first democratic transfer of authority after President Hamid Karzai agreed to step down after two terms as legally required.

Western officials were looking for a smooth transition to show progress ahead of the withdrawal of U.S. and allied combat troops by the end of this year. Whoever wins will inherit an impoverished country mired in insurgency and facing high unemployment and declining foreign aid.

Both candidates have promised to sign a security pact with the Obama administration that would allow nearly 10,000 American forces to remain in the country in a training capacity and to conduct counterterrorism operations. A disruption in the announcement of election results could mean another delay in finalizing that agreement, which was rebuffed by Karzai.

Abdullah Abdullah, who garnered the most votes in the first round of voting on April 5 but failed to get the majority needed to win outright, has boycotted the electoral institutions after alleging widespread ballot box stuffing and other efforts to rig the June 14 runoff vote against him. His rival Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai. Ahmadzai, a former finance minister and World Bank official, also filed complaints of irregularities in the balloting but has insisted that the agreed-upon counting process be respected and said any further delays in releasing results would be unacceptable.

Preliminary results had been due on Wednesday, but the Independent Election Commission postponed them for five days saying it needed to audit votes from nearly 2,000 of 23,000 polling stations nationwide. Commission chairman Ahmad Yousuf Nouristani said Sunday that the announcement would be made Monday as planned, although a time had yet to be announced.

Abdullah said Sunday that he would not accept any results until all fraudulent votes were invalidated. He also demanded a more extensive investigation into suspicious ballots, including cases where more than 93 percent of the ballots in a single box were for a single candidate.

"What we are asking for is . an audit and after the completion of the audit before the announcement of the preliminary results should be made," he said Sunday at a news conference.

"There is no doubt that fraud has happened, massive fraud has happened," he said. "After all suspicious areas are audited, we will accept the election results, but not before that."

North Korea to send cheering squad to the Asian Games

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Monday it will send a cheering squad to the coming Asian Games in rival South Korea that its athletes plan to attend.

A North Korean statement said the dispatch of its cheering squad to the games, set for Sept. 19 to Oct. 4 in the South Korean city of Incheon, is aimed at promoting reconciliation between the rivals. The statement released via state media repeated the country's demands the two Koreas halt mutual slandering and Seoul scrap military drills with Washington that it calls an invasion rehearsal. South Korean and U.S. officials have said their drills are defensive in nature.

North Korea has previously proposed similar demands that it said would reduce tension but South Korea has rejected them, saying the country must first take steps toward nuclear disarmament.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said Monday that North Korea must not repeat "unreasonable" demands. Spokesman Kim Eui-do told reporters the South Korean government supports the successful hosting of the Asian Games and will discuss the North's plans to send athletes and the cheering team with organizers of the games.

North Korea boycotted the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Summer Olympics, both in Seoul, but attended the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, the 2003 University Games in Daegu and the 2005 Asian Athletics Championships in Incheon.

In all three events, the North dispatched cheering squads, mostly comprising of young women—called an "army of beauties" in South Korea—which often received more attention than the country's athletes. Among the 2005 squad was Ri Sol Ju, who has later become wife of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, according to South Korean officials. The North's statement didn't provide details about its cheerleaders to the Incheon games.

World

Red Cross: 22 dead in attacks on Kenyan coast

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Twenty-two people were killed in overnight attacks by gunmen on the Kenyan coast, the Kenya Red Cross said Sunday. Al-Qaida-linked militants claimed responsibility but Kenyan officials blamed local separatists.

The Saturday night attacks left 13 dead in the town of Hindi and nine dead and one person missing in the town of Gamba, in neighboring Lamu and Tana Delta counties, Kenya Red Cross chief Abbas Gulet said.

Al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militants from Somalia claimed responsibility for Saturday's attacks—just like they did for others last month that killed 65 people. Kenya police, however, said preliminary investigations pointed to a Kenyan separatist group on the coast.

The attacks come as tensions are rising over a planned protest rally Monday in Nairobi by the opposition, which wants the government to convene national talks over security issues, the increasing cost of living, corruption and the disbandment of the electoral authority. Many fear the protests could further divide the nation along tribal lines.

About 15 gunmen raided the town of Hindi and started shooting at residents, according to the Lamu county commissioner Njenga Miiri. The assailants allegedly burned several buildings, including a church, and also attacked the Gamba police station, Kenyan police chief David Kimaiyo said.

The victims in Gamba included five non-Muslim inmates killed when the gunmen attacked the police station, said a senior police officer who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to speak with the media. Three other inmates escaped with the gunmen, according to the officer.

Grace Kaindi, a deputy inspector general of police, told reporters Sunday that preliminary investigations pointed to the separatist group Mombasa Republican Council. She showed a message allegedly left by the attackers on a blackboard at a school that called on Muslims to rise up, take back their land and kick out Christians from the coast. The message also suggested the attackers support opposition leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

Kenya has witnessed a notable increase in attacks since deploying troops in Oct. 2011 to fight al-Shabab militants.

Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for a deadly attack last month on the town of Mpeketoni on the Kenyan coast and another attack the following day on a nearby village. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and the interior minister have blamed local political networks for those attacks—assertions that have been met with skepticism.

Last month, police arrested Lamu Governor Issa Timamy and charged him with murder, forceful eviction of residents and terrorism in connection to the Mpeketoni attacks.

Kenyatta's claims that the Mpeketoni attack was "politically motivated" are seen as an indirect attack on Odinga, who lost to Kenyatta in last year's vote. The accusations have stoked tension between supporters of the two politicians, raising fears of violence.

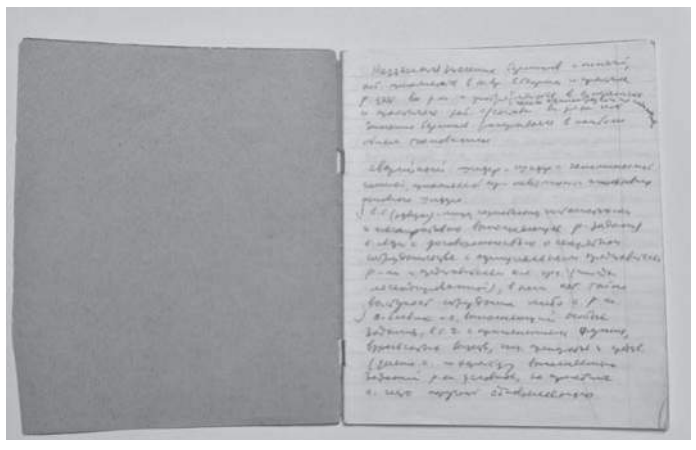
Odinga has vowed to continue with the protest despite a court order barring him and other leaders from the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy from convening the rally. The government has said 15,000 police officers will be deployed at the rally to prevent violence.

Soviet defector's trove of KGB secrets made public

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP)—The papers spent years hidden in a milk churn beneath a Russian dacha and read like an encyclopedia of Cold War espionage.

Original documents from one of the biggest intelligence leaks in history—a who's who of Soviet spying—were released Monday after being held in secret for two decades.

The files smuggled out of Russia in 1992 by senior KGB official Vasili Mitrokhin describe sabotage plots, booby-trapped weapons caches and armies of agents under cover in the West—the real-life inspiration for the fictional Soviet moles in "The Americans" TV series.



AP

This undated image made available by the Churchill Archive Centre shows Vasili Mitrokhin's handwritten copy of the KGB First Chief Directorate Lexicon.

In reality, top-quality spies could be hard to get. The papers reveal that some were given Communist honors and pensions by a grateful USSR, but others proved loose-lipped, drunk or unreliable.

Intelligence historian Christopher Andrew said the vast dossier, released by the Churchill Archives Centre at Cambridge University, was considered "the most important single intelligence source ever" by British and American authorities.

Mitrokhin was a senior archivist at the KGB's foreign intelligence headquarters—and a secret dissident. For more than a decade he secretly took files home, copied them in longhand and then typed and collated them into volumes. He hid the papers at his country cottage, or dacha, some stuffed into a milk churn and buried.

After the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, Mitrokhin traveled to a Baltic state—which one has never been confirmed—and took a sample of his files to the U.S. Embassy, only to be turned away. So he tried the British embassy, where a junior diplomat sat him down and asked, "Would you like a cup of tea?"

"That was the sentence that changed his life," said Andrew.

Smuggled out of Russia, Mitrokhin spent the rest of his life in Britain under a false name and police protection, dying in 2004 at 81.

The world did not learn of Mitrokhin until Andrew published a book based on his files in 1999. It caused a sensation by exposing the identities of KGB agents including 87-year-old Melita Norwood, the "great-granny spy," who had passed British atomic secrets to the Soviets for years.

Mitrokhin's files describe Norwood as a "loyal, trustworthy, disciplined agent" who was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour for her service.

She was more reliable than the famous "Cambridge Spies," the high-ranking British intelligence officials who worked secretly for the Soviets. The files describe Guy Burgess as "constantly under the influence of alcohol," while Donald Maclean was "not very good at keeping secrets."

Iraq analyzing tape purported to show top militant

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq security agencies are working to verify the authenticity of a video that purportedly shows the elusive leader of the Sunni extremist group that has declared an Islamic state in a large chunk of territory it controls leading prayers this week in northern Iraq, authorities said.

The video said to show Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of the Islamic State group, was reportedly filmed on Friday at the Great Mosque in Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. It was posted on at least two websites known to be used by the organization and bore the logo of its media arm.

The sermon in Mosul would the first public appearance for al-Baghdadi, a shadowy figure who has emerged as perhaps the preeminent figure in the international jihadi community. Al-Baghdadi, who has a $10 million U.S. bounty on his head, took over the group four years ago and has since transformed it from an al-Qaida affiliate focused on Iraq into an independent transnational force that controls of a huge stretch of land straddling the Syria-Iraq border.

Iraqi military spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi told reporters Sunday the country's security services are still analyzing the 21-minute video to verify whether the speaker is indeed al-Baghdadi, and that the government will "announce the details once they are available."

The purported appearance in Mosul, a city of some 2 million that the militants seized last month, came five days after al-Baghdadi's group declared the establishment of an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the territories it has seized in Iraq and Syria. The group proclaimed al-Baghdadi the leader of its state and demanded that all Muslims pledge allegiance to him.

Wearing black robes and a black turban, the man in the video said to be al-Baghdadi urges his followers to jihad, and emphasizes the implementation of a strict interpretation of Islamic law. He strikes an almost humble tone, telling listeners: "I am not better than you or more virtuous than you."

A senior Iraqi intelligence official told The Associated Press on Saturday that an initial analysis indicated that the man in the video is indeed al-Baghdadi. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

The government carried out at least three airstrikes Sunday in Mosul, two of which hit the Rashidiyah neighborhood and one of which targeted the 17 Tammuz district, residents said. It was not clear whether the raids were related to the video.

A medical official in the city said seven people were killed and 30 wounded in one strike in Rashidiyah. Casualty figures were not immediately available for the other air raids.

Both the residents and the official spoke on condition of anonymity over fears for their safety.

It was not clear what the air raids targeted, and the Iraqi military could not immediately be reached for comment.

Over the past month, al-Baghdadi's fighters have overrun much of northern and western Iraq, adding to the territory they already control in neighboring Syria. The group's initial surge in Iraq has crested, at least for now, after having grabbed most of Iraq's predominantly Sunni Arab regions and reaching majority Shiite areas, where resistance is tougher.

One of the main battlefronts now is the country's largest oil refinery near Beiji, some 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Baghdad, where government forces are besieged by Islamic State group fighters.

Al-Moussawi, the military spokesman, said security forces repelled an overnight attack on the facility, killing around 20 militants and damaging eight vehicles. The casualty figures could not be independently verified.

The Sunni militant offensive has ramped up the pressure on Iraq's political leaders to quickly form a new government that can confront the insurgents and keep the country from fracturing along ethnic and sectarian lines.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite whose State of Law bloc won the biggest chunk of the vote in April elections, is angling for a third consecutive term, and vowed last week he would not withdraw his candidacy—despite calls for him to step aside.

He has been widely accused of trying to monopolize power. Rivals and former allies alike say he has exacerbated the crisis by failing to pursue reconciliation with the country's Sunni minority, which complains it is treated like second-class citizens by al-Maliki's government.

Late Saturday, Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the next prime minister must come from State of Law, but he urged the bloc to put forward a candidate other than al-Maliki, saying an alternative nominee "will help end the suffering."

"It is necessary to demonstrate the national and paternal spirit for a higher and noble goal," al-Sadr said in a statement released by his office. "I mean changing the candidates, which will be a welcome and blessed step during this hard time the country goes through."

The comments marked a shift in al-Sadr's position. He previously said that the next prime minister must be Shiite, but not from State of Law.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hamas says 7 militants killed in Israeli strikes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel arrested six Jewish suspects Sunday in the grisly slaying of a Palestinian teenager who was abducted and burned alive last week—a crime that set off a wave of violent protests in Arab sections of the country. Leaders of the Jewish state appealed for calm amid signs the death was revenge for the recent killings of three Israeli teenagers. The region has been on edge since three Israeli teens—one of them a U.S. citizen—were kidnapped while hitchhiking in the West Bank last month. Last week, the teens' bodies were found in a West Bank field in a crime Israel blamed on the militant group Hamas.

Pro-Russia separatists vow to keep up the fight

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Discouraged but defiant, pro-Russia separatists vowed to keep fighting the government in Kiev from the largest city in eastern Ukraine, where they regrouped Sunday after being driven out of a key stronghold. At a rally in a central Donetsk square, the rebels were cheered on by thousands of supporters waving flags from Russia and the self-proclaimed independent Donetsk People's Republic. Many urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to quickly come to their aid—but there was no comment Sunday from Russia.

Overdrive

Jaguar F-Type Coupe is seductive hardtop option

By DAVID UNDERCOFFLER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2015 Jaguar F-Type S Coupe is a hardtop version of the recently released sports car. MCT

A year ago, Jaguar resurrected the brand's sex appeal with the F-Type convertible, a two-seater with park-it-out-front styling and a trio of supercharged engines.

The F-Type provided a refreshing alternative to a market dominated by Porsche. But a key ingredient of the recipe was missing: a hardtop. Rolling into dealerships now, the F-Type Coupe focuses on performance while offering an even more seductive silhouette. It's a delicious combo.

Mechanically, the coupe is nearly identical to the convertible. The starting points are a traditional front engine, real-wheel-drive setup and one of the quickest-shifting automatic transmissions available.

The base F-Type Coupe starts at $65,925, or $4,000 less than the ragtop. It comes with a direct-injected 3.0-liter supercharged V-6 engine that has 340 horsepower and 332 pound-feet of torque. Zero-to-60 mph ticks by in 5.1 seconds, according to Jaguar.

We spent half a day logging miles in the next model, the F-Type S, which starts at $77,925. With the same engine juiced for more power, it has 380 horsepower, 339 pound-feet of torque and a 4.8-second zero-to-60 mph time.

Our tester added another $14,000 in options. Highlights included a full-glass panoramic roof that did wonders to open up the otherwise cozy cabin, and a performance pack that included active exhaust and a dynamic mode. This mode lets the driver choose the settings for the engine, transmission, steering and suspension.

These goodies, plus a limited-slip differential, made for a thrilling ride. Jaguar says the chassis lurking beneath the finely folded aluminum body of this coupe is 80 percent stiffer than the convertible's. That helps the F-Type hardtop change direction with alacrity and predictability.

The 380 horses give the Jaguar healthy legs for any driving situation, and its eight-speed transmission is so quick and seamless that you also suspect Jaguar sneaked in a dual-clutch gearbox rather than the automatic advertised. If only the throttle response were so immediate; at times it felt sleepy for such a powerful car.

While the V-6 coupes behave similarly to their convertible cousins, the V-8 coupe is quite a different beast than the V-8 convertible.

The Jaguar F-Type R (base price: $99,925) has 550 horsepower and 502 pound-feet of torque. That's a jump of 55 horsepower and 42 pound-feet of torque over the V-8 convertible, despite the fact that they use the same 5.0-liter supercharged engine. The car will do zero-to-60 mph in 4 seconds flat, Jaguar said.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Jaguar F-Type S Coupe:

- Los Angeles Times take: Sex appeal and performance, just like your father's Jaguar
- Highs: Gorgeous exterior, exhaust note deserves a Grammy, V-8's performance shines
- Lows: Throttle can be sleepy, steering a bit numb, V-6 options add up fast
- Vehicle type: Two-door coupe sports car
- Powertrain: 3.0-liter, supercharged V-6 with direct-injections; rear-wheel-drive
- Transmission: eight-speed, automatic with paddle shifters and sport mode
- Horsepower: 380
- Torque: 339 pound-feet
- Zero-to-60 mph: 4.8 seconds, according to Jaguar
- EPA fuel economy rating: 19 mpg in the city, 27 on the highway
- Base price: $77,925
- Price as tested: $92,125

Prices include destination charge.

We drove this car primarily on the track at Willow Springs Raceway. In this setting, the F-Type R's bottomless well of power made the lesser Jaguars feel quaint by comparison.

The F-Type R commands the driver's attention on the track in a way the more buttoned-up Porsche Cayman doesn't. The Jaguar's steering is a tad numb, which makes it harder to sense exactly where the car is on the tarmac. This, and a little extra body roll from the suspension, means it takes a few more laps to get comfortable pushing the F-Type R around than it would the Porsche.

But with a little patience, the Jaguar V-8 reveals itself to be a sublimely confident sports car. There's torque everywhere in the rev band, so the driver can shift less and pay more attention to tracking the perfect line in and out of curves.

A subtle bonus to having a hard roof over your head in the F-Type V-8 is that the cacophonous exhaust—full of throaty whip cracks and pops when you let off the gas—isn't the nuisance it can be in the convertible.

And then there's the styling. While the narrow taillights and abrupt facade look good on the roadster, the F-Type Coupe's rear end is worthy of a Sinatra song. It's elegant and muscular at the same time, and looks more complete with the rear glass window slinking down to the end of the car.

The good looks were enough to grab more than one double take and catcall during a brief drive through Beverly Hills. (The Fireside Metallic orange paint might have had something to do with it too).

All this should help Jaguar land a few more of its F-Types in people's garages. The automaker could use the help to close the gap with Porsche. Through May, Jaguar had sold just over 1,300 F-Type convertibles, while the Boxster/Cayman duo found 3,334 buyers. The (generally) more expensive Porsche 911 sold just under 3,100.

It's usually hard to talk us out of a convertible and the open-air experience. But Jaguar's F-Type Coupe combines speed and sex appeal better than almost any car on the market—roof or no roof.

UNDER THE HOOD

Stopping corrosion on battery post

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Could you explain why my 2011 Lincoln MKZ battery post develops green corrosion on the positive post? The mechanic at the Lincoln dealership and the service manager said that some batteries do that and it is normal. Also, the manager said the vents on the wet batteries cause the post to gather this acid and corrode. I have had at least 16 cars and a twin diesel (battery) boat and don't remember ever having this problem. He suggested a couple of deterrents, such as a copper penny between the posts, spray-painting the post or putting a grease on the post to shield it from corrosion. Do you have a solution or idea?

ANSWER: I believe your battery has a poorly functioning seal between the battery post and case which is allowing vapors and/or acid to sneak up into the terminal connection. This is more of a nuisance than a problem, and you should be able to manage it during the remaining life of the battery. I've had fairly good luck using the red and green felt terminal protectors, placing them beneath a just-cleaned terminal. Coating the post and terminal with some "Brush-on NCP-2 Battery Corrosion Preventative" is another method that can bring relief.

If your battery terminals have crud growing atop them, there's a good chance corrosion is working into the more critical, less visible clamp/post connection. Corroded or loose battery terminals can cause difficult or no-starting, charging system issues, and some really weird symptoms to occur with on-board electronics. The good news is vehicle damage is unlikely. It's the symptoms that can be unpleasant. An overcharging problem could also accelerate battery leakage, but your vehicle should be able to identify such a fault and bring it to your attention.

Cleaning terminals is a fairly easy process. A check of the owner's manual for precautions involving battery disconnection/replacement is a good first step. Yours indicates the transmission will need to undergo a learning period after reconnection to restore shift strategies and may shift a bit firmly or softly until things sweeten up. An inexpensive battery "memory saver" can be plugged into the lighter socket — make sure it's active with the key off — providing short-term memory power while the terminals are unhooked. Most auto parts stores sell these, along with nifty terminal cleaning tools.

When working around batteries, eye protection is a must. The black negative terminal should be removed first and installed last, and don't allow the terminals to touch each other or any other parts! Also, never disconnect a battery cable with the engine running or key on.

Avoid twisting the terminals excessively to remove them. Loosen the nut further and gently spread the clamp apart with a large screwdriver. Mix up a container with 2 cups of water and 2 to 3 tablespoons of baking soda. Immerse the removed cable clamps for a minute or so, one at a time, and pour a small amount of fluid/paste over the vacated battery posts. Clean and pat all parts dry with a dampened old rag, then use the terminal cleaning brush to bring up some shiny connecting surfaces. Finish up with your preventative products and securely snug the clamps. Wash your hands right away!

I've heard about the penny trick and intend to try it also.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at) earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Beyonce and Jay Z: Contemporary pop's ultimate duo

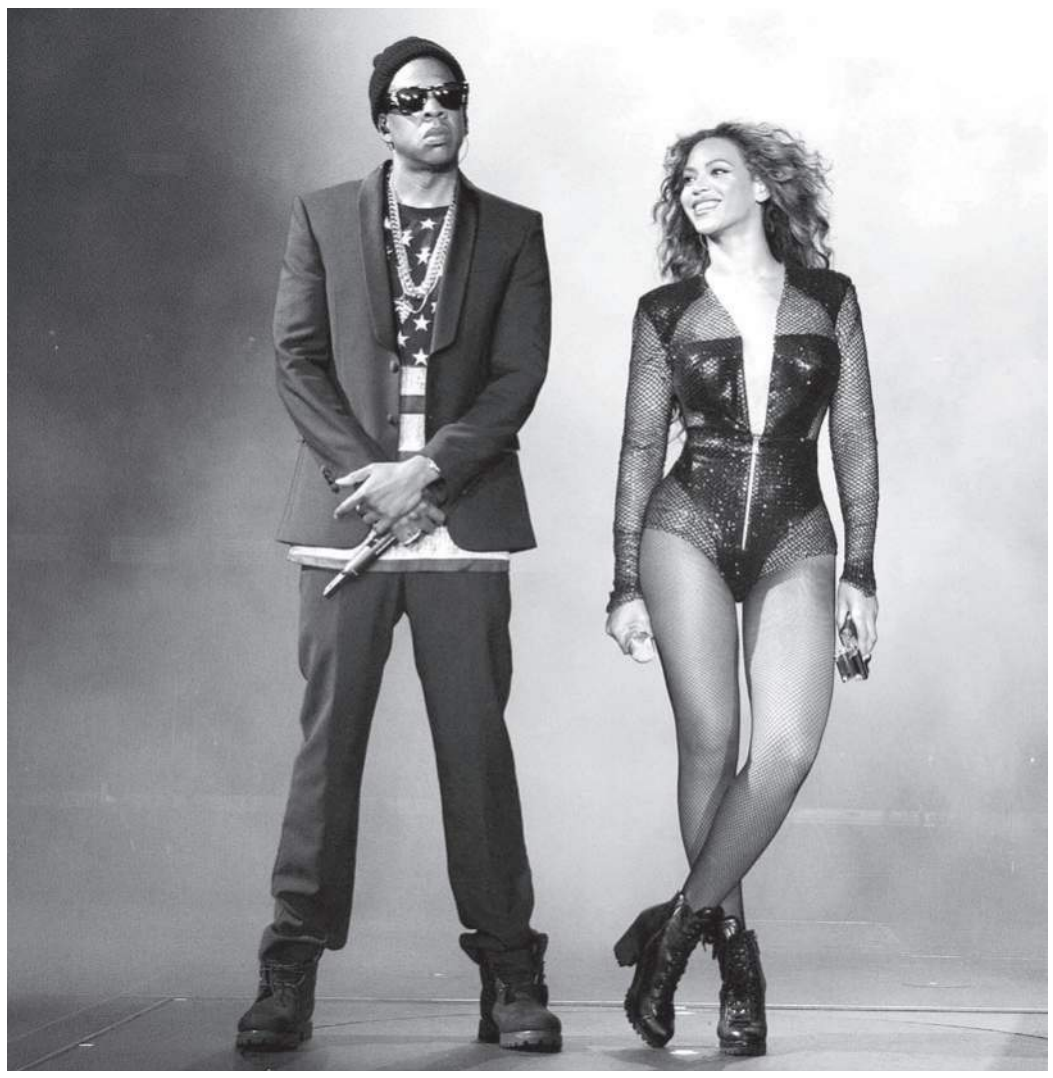
By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—For all of Beyonce and Jay Z's uptempo joint hits—the irresistible and catchy "Crazy In Love," the swagger anthem "Upgrade U" and the beat-driven "Drunk In Love"—it was the performers' emotional solo material that made their presence as a collaborative duo strong and resilient during their On the Run tour.

It was like they were having a conversation through songs in Philadelphia on Saturday night. Beyonce went from a rock-heavy arrangement of "If I Were a Boy" to a cover of Lauryn Hill's grand "Ex-Factor." She sang the latter as a woman scorned and repeated the line, "Why won't you cry for me?" The crowd at the Citizens Bank Park sang along, and cheered her on.

Jay Z's reply: His confessional and emotional 2002 tune, "Song Cry." It opens with the line: "I can't see them coming down my eyes, so I got to make the song cry."

He performed the track holding the microphone closely with both hands as he stood in place, all while a video of the power couple was shown in the background. She was in a wedding dress and they rode a motorcycle and danced.



AP

Jay Z and Beyoncé perform on the On The Run Tour at the Great American Ball Park on Saturday, June 28, 2014, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

She also cried, began shooting someone and was hit with a bullet. And then she sang the weighty ballad about a deceitful lover, "Resentment."

Beyonce performed the 2006 song sitting down and wearing a wedding veil. She changed the lyrics to note she's been "riding with you for 12 years," which earned a rousing roar from the crowd. And a video followed, starting with the line, "Love is an act of endless forgiveness."

The back-to-back performances full of sentiment and sensation were welcomed since Jayonce is pop's most intimate couple. In concert, they seemed to lay it all out through song.

Beyonce was most passionate when she sang the upbeat number "Why Don't You Love Me." She even grew teary-eyed after she belted some of the lyrics and paused for a minute as the crowd cheered. And cheered. And cheered.

She followed that by singing Justin Timberlake's part on the hit "Holy Grail," staring directly at Jay Z and singing the lyrics as if it were written for her. The transition from "Why Don't You Love Me" to "Holy Grail" was one of many that worked perfectly as the duo performed three dozen songs—some in snippets—for a feverish group of fans at a stadium with 40,000 seats.

They kicked off the nearly three-hour concert with high energy, going from "`03 Bonnie & Clyde" to "Upgrade U" to "Crazy In Love." They changed clothes about 10 times throughout the show, wearing mostly black with touches of leather onstage.

When Jay Z rapped about his "bad chick, H-town" during "Tom Ford," Beyonce crept onstage. And when Jay Z performed the anthemic "Clique," Beyonce was behind him. She nodded her head and then transitioned to "Diva," where her singing style is not far from rapping, and her swag is not far from Jay Z's.

It was also one of many songs where Beyonce danced with skill, enticing and igniting the audience and proving even further that she is contemporary pop's leading performer. She danced with precision on songs like "Run the World (Girls)," "Flawless" and "Ring the Alarm." Sometimes it was so clean she appeared robotic. And she also did the Nae Nae dance.

'Transformers' tops 'Tammy' on weak July 4 weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—The Fourth of July went off like a dud at the box office, as the Michael Bay sequel "Transformers: Age of Extinction" and the Melisa McCarthy comedy "Tammy" led the weakest summer holiday weekend in at least a decade.

The North American box office was down a whopping 44 percent over the July Fourth weekend last year, when "Despicable Me 2" and "The Lone Ranger" opened.

This weekend sputtered not because of an oversized bomb like "The Lone Ranger," but because of numerous factors, including that Hollywood simply didn't aim for big fireworks this year. The holdover "Transformers" led all films with an estimated $36.4 million, while "Tammy" had a below expectations Friday-to-Sunday haul of $21.2 million.

"This ranks as one of the lowest Fourth of Julys ever," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "We always think of Fourth of July being a big weekend. This year, we just have to lick our wounds and look forward to `Planet of the Apes' and some other films to get us back on track."

Paramount's "Transformers," the fourth in the series, opened the weekend prior to the year's biggest debut with $100 million.

AP

This photo released by Paramount Pictures shows, from left, Mark Wahlberg, as Cade Yeager, Nicola Peltz as Tessa Yeager, and T.J. Miller as Lucas Flannery, in "Transformers: Age of Extinction."

The movie, with a rebooted cast led by Mark Wahlberg, dropped considerably (63 percent) in its second week of release despite relatively little competition.

Overseas, "Age of Extinction" is performing exceptionally well. It added $95.8 million from 37 territories for a two-week worldwide gross of $575.6 million. It's set to soon become the highest grossing film ever in China, with already more than $200 million in box office sales. "Transformers 4" was partially shot in China, features local star Li Bingbing and premiered at the Shanghai Film Festival.

New Line's R-rated, Midwest road trip romp "Tammy" boasts one of the most bankable stars in movies—McCarthy—but is a smaller, homespun movie made for just $20 million and directed by McCarthy's husband, Ben Falcone. Despite being savaged by critics, the Warner Bros. release made $32.9 million in five days since opening Wednesday.

"Why the weekend was so weak in terms of competition is hard to tell," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., who said he was very pleased with the performance of "Tammy." "It's just the way things fell."

The other new wide release was the horror flick "Deliver Us From Evil," which had no blockbuster ambitions. The Sony Screen Gems release, starring Eric Bana, opened in third with $9.5 million. Also debuting was Relativity Media's animated release "Earth to Echo," which took in $8.3 million.

The unusual holiday lull meant that for the first time this summer, a movie ("Transformers: Age of Extinction") held the top spot at the box office for two weeks in a row.

1. **"Transformers: Age Of Extinction," $36.4 million** *($95.8 million international).*
2. **"Tammy," $21.2 million** *($2.5 million international).*
3. **"Deliver Us From Evil," $9.5 million** *($2.5 million international).*
4. **"22 Jump Street," $9.4 million** *($10 million international).*
5. **"How to Train Your Dragon 2," $8.8 million** *($33.5 million international).*
6. **"Earth to Echo," $8.3 million.**
7. **"Maleficent," $6.1 million** *($17.3 million international).*
8. **"Jersey Boys," $5.1 million** *($2.7 million international).*
9. **"Think Like a Man Too," $4.9 million.**
10. **"Edge of Tomorrow," $3.6 million** *($8.4 million international).*

'Transformers' could earn record China box office

BEIJING (AP)—The latest "Transformers" movie, which features Chinese locations, actors and products, has so far earned almost as much in China as in the United States, driven by a record number of screenings for a foreign movie.

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" has made an estimated $149 million in the U.S. and $134 million in China, the world's biggest and second-biggest movie markets, respectively, according to figures from box office tracking website Box Office Mojo.

Director Michael Bay's film, which was released June 27 in both markets, heavily courted the Chinese audience by employing Chinese stars, basing part of the action in cities in China and showing Chinese products such as liquor and milk. A reality TV show to choose four people to play roles in the film helped to drum up publicity.

Observers say "Transformers" is on course to beat "Avatar" as the biggest earner at the fast-growing Chinese box office. "Avatar" earned $218 million in China in 2010.

More than half of China's more than 20,000 screens showed the fourth in the "Transformers" blockbuster franchise.

Hou Tao, vice president of leading entertainment consultancy EntGroup, said Sunday that on average 55 percent of screens were set aside for the movie at the start, which had dropped to 46-48 percent in the last few days. He said that it was a record for foreign movies, which would normally be lucky to be shown on 40 percent of screens.

Whether any other foreign movie will receive such a favorable screening "just depends on the movie itself, whether it's popular, whether it's competitive enough, and whether at the time there is no other movie to compete with it," Hou said.

He said "Transformers" had done well in China because of its Chinese elements and it hadn't had to compete with any other big movies. Also, advertisers who had arranged for their products to be shown in the movie promoted the film by offering free tickets, Hou said.

Ford injury to halt 'Star Wars' for 2 weeks

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Ford's injury will cause production on "Star Wars: Episode VII" to be suspended for two weeks.

Disney announced Sunday that shooting would be halted for two weeks in August to adjust the production schedule following Ford's injury. The 71-year-old broke his leg in June during filming of the much-anticipated sequel at Pinewood Studios outside of London.

Disney had said earlier that Ford's injury wouldn't cause any delays. The studio said Sunday that "Episode VII" is still "on track" to wrap in the fall and be released in December 2015.

The accident involved a spacecraft door on the Millennium Falcon falling on Ford's leg. His recuperation was expected to take up to two months.

Ford

AP

In this May 3, 2014, file photo, Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson attend the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington.

Jessica Simpson weds ex-NFL player Eric Johnson

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP)—Jessica Simpson is a newlywed.

The singer and TV personality married retired NFL player Eric Johnson Saturday at San Ysidro Ranch in Montecito, California, her publicist Lauren Auslander confirms.

Simpson and Johnson began dating in 2010. They have a two-year-old daughter, Maxwell, and a one-year-old son named Ace.

Auslander said Ace served as a ring bearer and Maxwell walked down the aisle as a flower girl.

It is the second marriage for both Simpson, 33, and 34-year-old Johnson. Simpson was previously married to singer Nick Lachey. The two co-starred on a VH1 reality series "Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica" for three seasons. Shortly after their third wedding anniversary, the two split up.

Cyrus calls slain Nevada teacher 'hero'

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus honored a Nevada teacher killed by a 12-year-old student in a schoolyard shooting last year, calling him a "true American hero."

Cyrus praised Michael Landsberry and presented a memorial plaque to his widow, Sharon, during a concert Saturday night in Incline Village, a Nevada community on north shore of Lake Tahoe.

Police say Landsberry, a 45-year-old ex-Marine, tried to talk the shooter into turning over the handgun before he was shot in the chest Oct. 21 at a middle school in the Reno suburb of Sparks. The student wounded two classmates before taking his life.

"Tonight we are here to honor a true American hero," Cyrus told a crowd of over 1,000. "Michael Landsberry made the ultimate sacrifice to save his students after serving three terms in Afghanistan."

Cyrus said Landsberry also represented the courage of the Vietnam veteran honored in his patriotic song, "Some Gave All." With a large photograph of Landsberry in the background and the math teacher's widow on stage, Cyrus led the crowd in singing the song.

Cyrus said he was moved by the story of Landsberry's actions in the school shooting and decided to recognize him when offered a chance to perform at Lake Tahoe.

He and his father, Ronald Ray Cyrus, made similar presentations honoring American heroes for more than a decade, and this marked the first time the country star has done so since his father's 2006 death.

"Just about every year, my dad and I would find an unsung hero and present them with a `Some Gave All' award," he told The Associated Press. "I kind of play everything by ear, and I thought sometime when the time is right, I would love to recognize the sacrifice Michael made."

Sharon Landsberry thanked Cyrus and said his tribute moved her and their two daughters, Alisa Cook, 25, and Andrea Cook, 18. Alisa Cook also attended the concert, while Andrea Cook offered a videotaped message from an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf, where she serves in the Marines.

"We all love him today. ... He lives within all of us," Sharon Landsberry said of her husband.

Cyrus, who rose to fame in 1992 with the hit song "Achy Breaky Heart," also gave her a "financial gift." The amount was not disclosed.

AP

This Saturday, July 5, 2014 photo released by Talbot Photography shows Sharon Landsberry, left, widow of Michael Landsberry, a 45-year-old math teacher who was shot and killed last year at a middle school in the Reno suburb of Sparks, Nev., with country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, right, in Incline Village on Lake Tahoe's north shore. Cyrus presented a plaque and check to Sharon at a concert on Saturday.

Flavor Flav cited by police over fireworks show

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police have cited rapper Flavor Flav over his annual Fourth of July fireworks show outside his Las Vegas home.

The reality TV star has been accused of setting off thousands of dollars' worth of illegal fireworks at his holiday party since 2009.

Police put a stop to Friday's show when neighbors called to complain shortly after it started.

Police Lt. Ken Romaine tells the Las Vegas Review-Journal (http://bit.ly/TWGWDO) that officers confiscated over 100 pounds of the entertainer's remaining fireworks and issued him two fireworks-related citations.

The rapper, whose real name is William Drayton, says his neighbors won't have to worry about his show next year because he's moving the party out of the neighborhood.

He says he doesn't want to go to jail over fireworks, and some 100 guests were having "a ball" until police arrived.

Muti conducts 'Requiem' for WWI 100th anniversary

ROME (AP)—Maestro Riccardo Muti is conducting Verdi's Requiem Mass in northeastern Italy to mark the 100th anniversary of World War I's outbreak in Europe and honor its millions of war dead.

The Italian orchestra conductor has called the musical tribute Sunday night at the Redipuglia monument to WWI dead a ``message of reconciliation."

Italy's Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra was performing with musicians from other countries in what Muti has described as an "expression of musical harmony" and peace.

Italy's president was among those attending the performance.

Scrapbooks full of memories will be cherished by friends

DEAR ABBY: May I comment about the question from "Unsure in the West" (April 6), who wanted to create scrapbooks out of all the cards and letters she received over the years? My generation (30s) is all about social media. "Unsure" mentioned that all the items she wanted to include were pre-Facebook. I am a bit old-fashioned (or maybe stubborn) so I don't do Facebook or Twitter, and I don't understand the importance of a "hashtag." I have no idea how to Skype, nor do I pay my bills online.

I think the scrapbook idea is wonderful. There is something special about having tangible items to go along with important milestones and memories. Even if the gifts themselves don't strike a chord with her friends, surely the consideration and time she puts into the scrapbooks will make her loved ones realize how important they are to her. I say, proceed with confidence. Your friends are lucky to have you.

L.K. IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR L.K.: Like you, readers overwhelmingly support "Unsure" in her efforts to create scrapbooks of memories for her friends. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have also saved cards, letters, wedding photos and pictures of newborns, etc., for several decades. A few years ago, I simply returned them to the people who had sent them. Nearly all of the recipients squealed with delight as they thanked me, having realized I had gifted them with "time capsules" of their lives. Only one friend was offended that I had returned her items. She said she was "appalled" that I didn't cherish them myself. The joy expressed by the others superseded the angry friend. "Unsure," return those items to the senders!

LINDA IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY: I did the same thing with photos. But instead of returning them to the person(s) who gave them to me, I gave them to the children who were pictured in the photos. Others I saved and presented to the now-grown child's spouse as a wedding gift. So far they have been well-received. Most people are surprised to learn that I actually kept all these photos of them or their children for so long and appreciated the effort I put into the scrapbooks.

MEMORY KEEPER

DEAR ABBY: I am not a crafter and I'm not very sentimental. I don't enjoy what I consider clutter. As I've grown older, I have done my best to pare down and eliminate things I no longer have use for. I have embraced technology. If "Unsure" were my friend, I would appreciate it more if she scanned anything she wanted to give back to me. Either way, I would probably view the scrapbook or e-book, and then deep-six it after the viewing. It crossed my mind that perhaps "Unsure" is cleaning out, and this is her way of getting rid of her "clutter."

MAUREEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: Yes! Bundle and return the cards and letters with a note about what the correspondence has meant to you over the years. As a young adult, I lived all over the world and frequently wrote my friends and family about my life and what I was experiencing. Over the last few years I have received bundles from my mother, my sister and a friend—all letters they had hung onto for 20 to 30 years. What a surprise and a joy. Reading these old cards and letters gave me a window into a world that no longer exists, and reminded me of who I was then and what my life was like. Yes, please give back the correspondence.

MARIANNE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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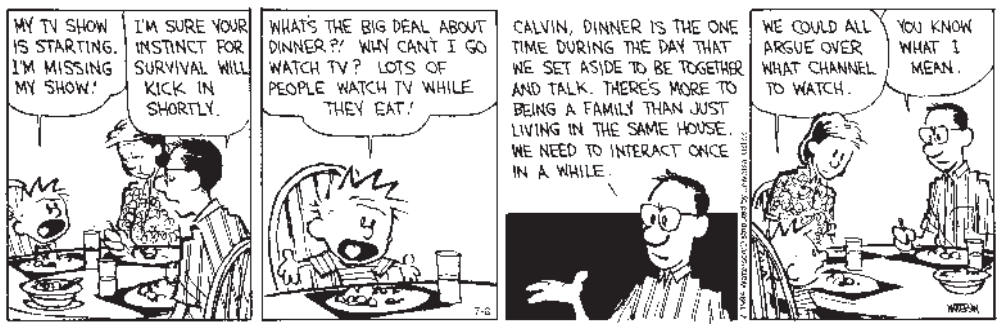
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY TV SHOW IS STARTING. I'M MISSING MY SHOW!
I'M SURE YOUR INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL WILL KICK IN SHORTLY.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DINNER?! WHY CAN'T I GO WATCH TV? LOTS OF PEOPLE WATCH TV WHILE THEY EAT!
CALVIN, DINNER IS THE ONE TIME DURING THE DAY THAT WE SET ASIDE TO BE TOGETHER AND TALK. THERE'S MORE TO BEING A FAMILY THAN JUST LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE. WE NEED TO INTERACT ONCE IN A WHILE.
WE COULD ALL ARGUE OVER WHAT CHANNEL TO WATCH.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

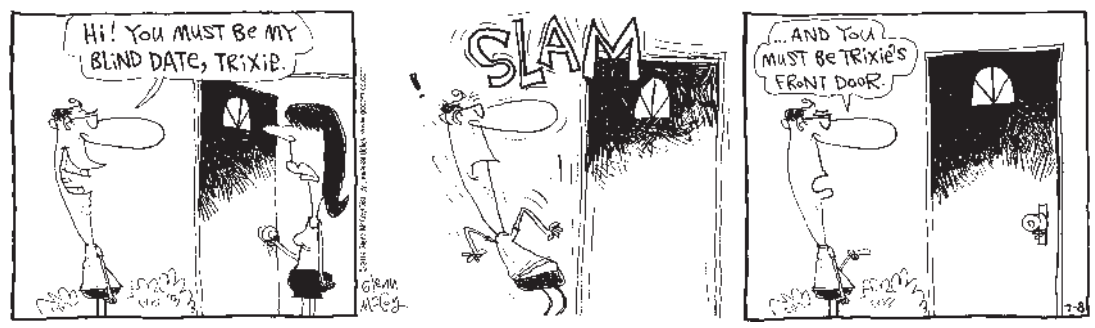
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WALLOWING.
YOU TOLD ME WALLOWING WAS A WASTE OF TIME.
I WAS WRONG.
I LOST A BIG JOB. SO I NEED A SHORT PERIOD OF UNINTERRUPTED SELF-PITY. THEN I'LL BE FINE.
OKAY, BUT THE WEEPY VIOLIN MUSIC IS BRINGING US ALL DOWN.
TEN MORE MINUTES. I'M 90% WALLOWED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Con game
5 "Skip to My —"
8 Mineral scale eponym
12 "Dear me!"
13 Possess
14 Western state
15 Octopus arm
17 Ireland
18 Wapiti
19 Jug or cup
21 Odor
24 Close up tightly
25 Golf statistics
26 Causes of stress
30 Boxing legend
31 Toast topping
32 "Humbug!"
33 Rosemary Clooney hit
35 Donate
36 Michael Sam's team
37 Acts like a raptor
38 Revealing swimsuit
41 Mauna —
42 Ugandan despot
43 Persistence
48 Be without
49 Before
50 A Great Lake
51 Cartoonist's supply
52 Witnessed
53 Enervates

DOWN
1 Drunkard
2 "Evita" narrator
3 Raggedy doll
4 Roadside stopovers
5 Tress
6 Hooter
7 In an erratic way
8 Rolled oats recipe
9 Elevator name
10 Tortoise's rival
11 Writer Silverstein
16 Everything
20 Simple
21 Argument
22 Guy
23 Ms. Brockovich
24 Vends
26 Wood eaters
27 Theater trophy
28 Almost black
29 "— Funny That Way"
31 Billie — King
34 Beverages
35 Trio of mythic sisters
37 Shell game item
38 South Pacific island
39 "— old cowhand ..."
40 Punt
41 Recognized
44 Historic period
45 401(k) alternative
46 Gratuity
47 "Absolutely"

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	E	W		C	A	S	T	E		H	A	M
O	V	A		A	C	T	O	R		A	G	O
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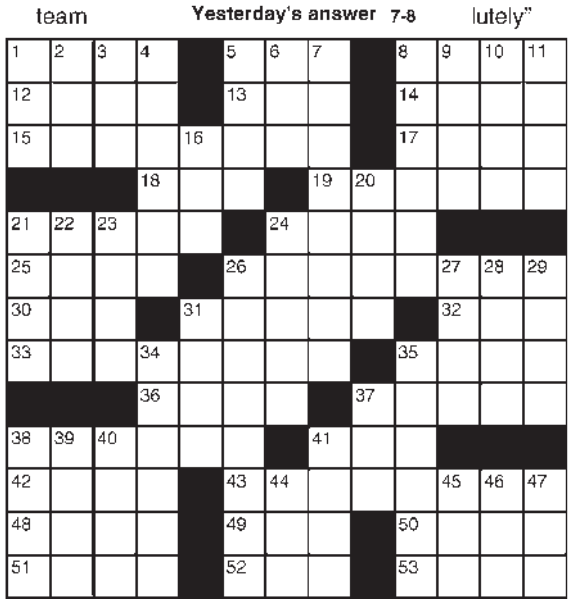
			F	K	F		A	R	I	D	E	S
M	A	H	L	E	R		Y	U	R	T		
A	L	A		I	O	N		S	M	O	K	E
L	A	N	A		N	C	S		A	W	A	Y
L	E	D	G	E		V	W	S		E	N	E
		B	I	I	S		A	N	K	L	E	S
G	R	I	N	C	H		D	I	O			
O	I	L		H	A	N	D	P	I	C	K	S
A	L	L		E	M		L	E		P	E	N
D	E	S		S	E	X	E	S		A	W	L

Yesterday's answer 7-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Toby Keith, 53; Kevin Bacon, 56; Anjelica Huston, 63; Jeffrey Tambor, 70.

Happy Birthday: Your creative talents will surface, giving you greater interest in courses and hobbies that lean toward art history and philosophy. You will find yourself at a turning point, helping you make innovative alterations to the way you approach life. Foreign cultures and unusual subjects will influence your future. Don't fight what's inevitable. Go with the flow. Your numbers are 7, 12, 17, 26, 32, 46, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Group discussions will help reveal solutions to concerns you've been laboring over. As long as you don't overreact, you should be able to move forward and accomplish what you set out to do. You will learn a valuable lesson from someone masterful. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Serious discussions can bring any problem you have with someone to a head, clearing the passage for better interaction in the future. Your intense, persuasive and aggressive tactics will ensure you get the results you want. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Hop to it and get whatever jobs are expected of you out of the way. Put time aside to do something special with someone who enjoys the same things you do. Physical activities will boost your confidence and enhance your looks. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A day trip or getting together with someone you don't get to see very often will feed your curiosity about unique places, people and pastimes. Make the effort to initiate a new plan of action that will stimulate you personally. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Concentrate on what you can do, not what you cannot. Don't let responsibilities get you down or stand in your way. Finish what needs to be done and move on to projects that interest you more. A move will do you good. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get involved in a cause you believe in or join a group that will help you connect with people who can contribute to your goals. Taking on responsibilities will show others that you have leadership abilities. A beneficial friendship will develop. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Think before you react to what someone does or says. It's in your best interest to hold your thoughts and put your energy elsewhere. Focus on self-improvement, not trying to change someone else. A day trip will lead to an excellent idea. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A promise can be made that will help you move on to the next stage of a relationship with someone who shares your concerns, interests and plans. Alter the way you live to suit your means and lifestyle needs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Playful action will help you avoid questions you don't want to answer. Changes you make at home will be met with opposition if you overspend. Do the work and cut corners and you will stay within budget. Romance will enhance your love life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't feel you have to do everything on your own. Rather than fall behind, ask for help. Refrain from making impromptu alterations that are likely to have bitter consequences. Stick close to home and protect your assets. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take heed of the advice given, but don't hesitate to follow through with your plans if you feel confident in the outcome. Property investments, settlements, negotiations and raising your profile will pay off. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Travel and knowledge will present problems for you. A lack of preparation, knowledge or being given false information is apparent. Focus more on self-improvement and building a better rapport with the younger and older people in your life. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive and possessive. You are dedicated, determined and courageous.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2						
5	1		3	9				7
	9		8		7		3	
	8	4						3
				1				
1						9	2	
	6		2		1		9	
7				4	3		5	8
						2		

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	8	5	9	3	4	2	1
4	2	9	8	6	1	5	7	3
3	1	5	4	2	7	9	8	6
8	3	2	6	1	9	7	4	5
5	6	4	3	7	8	1	9	2
1	9	7	2	5	4	3	6	8
2	4	3	9	8	5	6	1	7
7	5	6	1	4	2	8	3	9
9	8	1	7	3	6	2	5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 7/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FIRE SAFETY Solution: 5 letters

V	B	P	B	N	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	A	E	L
I	L	O	E	A	A	S	R	E	T	L	E	H	S	C
D	A	T	U	L	N	E	G	A	M	A	D	N	O	A
E	Z	S	A	P	P	N	S	T	I	X	E	O	H	L
O	E	R	O	A	P	T	E	S	T	Z	L	R	T	L
S	M	W	C	O	L	L	O	R	I	W	A	T	E	R
D	E	S	R	E	V	O	C	T	S	I	G	N	S	E
R	E	D	L	E	D	R	I	L	L	S	Q	U	A	D
A	S	R	A	S	S	C	O	O	K	I	N	G	K	U
U	N	O	N	M	R	C	O	D	E	S	E	S	A	C
G	O	L	G	O	R	O	U	T	E	V	A	E	L	A
E	S	D	I	K	R	U	L	E	S	M	Ⓗ	Ⓔ	Ⓐ	Ⓣ
F	S	N	S	E	V	A	C	U	A	T	I	O	N	I
A	E	A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	R	A	I	N	O
S	L	L	L	A	T	S	N	I	G	N	I	T	E	N

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Accident, Alarm, Banners, Blaze, Call, Candles, Cases, Causes, Codes, Cooking, Cool, Cover, Damage, Drills, Drop, Education, Escape, Evacuation, Exits, Heat, Hose, Ignite, Install, Landlords, Leave, Lessons, Mask, Plan, Power, Rescue, Roll, Route, Rules, Safeguard, Senior Citizens, Shelters, Signal, Signs, Smoke, Squad, Stop, Test, Train, Videos, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Selfie

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 37, 38 or 39** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Ocean apart

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

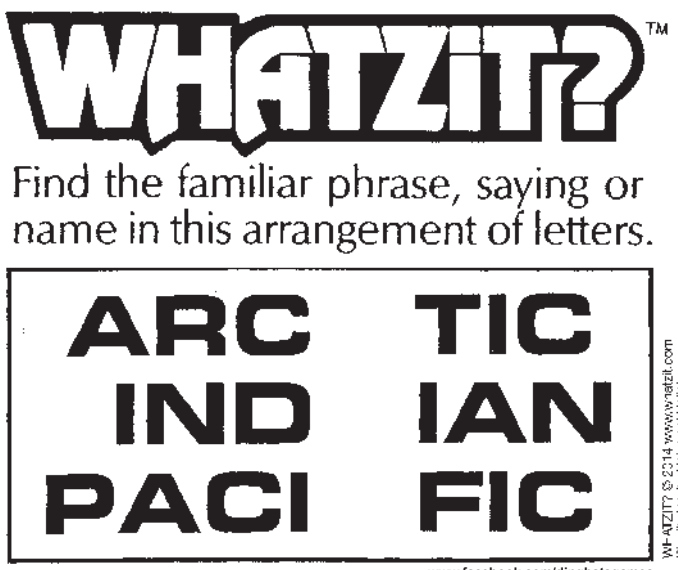
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Century Hotel
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

General Maintenance Worker (1)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform room cleaning, carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities. Minimum of two to three years experience as an Electrician and one year of apprenticeship experience in manufacturing or either construction; or a combination of experience, training and education in housekeeping and in related field, preferably with knowledge of the hotel industry.

This position is responsible for the upkeep of hotel facilities. The responsibilities include guest room cleaning according to standards and analyzing and correcting electrical problems, repairing and overhauling electrical equipment and controls and promoting efficient consumption of utilities.

Applications can be obtained at the security post located on the south wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 11, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) Healthcare Clinic System Manager
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, and computer network and advance server skills.
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building construction/renovation experience
- Must be experience in solar maintenance PV models
- Must be flexible with time schedule
- Must have a valid driver's license

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records.
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Must be a bachelor of science in Radiologic Technology.
- Licensed by the Medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI
- At least five years or more experience or related field

(02) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN licensing
- At least two to five years experience
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic located at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 07/25/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

www.saipantribune.com

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

EMPLOYMENT

Cook (Korean/Japanese cuisine): $5.55/hr. Must be proficient in Korean or Japanese cuisine. At least 2 years' professional experience required. Email resume to chinayanbian@hanmisaipan.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ALPEX SAIPAN INC

Sales Operation Manager
Must have a college diploma with Bachelor's Degree in Sales & marketing with 5 years continued experience as Sales operation manager for wholesale company. Must have extensive knowledge on consumer products, sales & promotional planning, inventory & budget control and product importation. Must have the ability to handle overall operations of wholesale business. Proficiency in Microsoft Word programs & wholesale software system is a must. Must be available to work anytime needed.

Sales Officer
High School graduate or an Associate degree holder with at least 5 years continued selling experience. Must have own reliable transportation. Ability to meet monthly sales target and must have extensive contacts in various industries. Must have extensive knowledge in Japanese, US and Korean products. Proficiency in Microsoft Word programs & wholesale software system is a must. Must be available to work on weekends and holidays.

Purchasing Agent
High School graduate or an Associate degree holder with at least 5 years of continued experience. Extensive knowledge in wholesale operation, ordering, planning, shipment. Extensive knowledge in Japanese and Korean products, preferred. Proficiency in Korean/Japanese speaking is advantage. Knowledgeable in Microsoft word programs & wholesale software system.

Building Repair & Maintenance/ Warehouse worker
High school graduate or equivalent with at least 5 years continued experience. Must have extensive knowledge and experience in general and repair work including electrical, refrigeration, carpentry work. Must be able to do some strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of items. Must know how to operate pallet jack and forklift equipments. Must be available to work on weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants submit resume and latest police clearance at Alpex Saipan Inc. office, across San Antonio Chuch, San Antonio Village.
For application to be considered should be sent not later than July 12, 2014.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2010

Opening date: July 07, 2014 **Closing date: July 25, 2014**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

Position: (1) ARFF Mechanic-III (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 25, 2014.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact the CPA HR Administrator Ms. Rita Omar, by email at rita.omar@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS?
You're looking at it!

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Four (4) TECHNICIANS-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other requirements:
- Minimum 10-year work experience required
- EPA Section 608 & R-410A (Certifications required)
- Maintenance Technician & Electrical Safety Course in accordance with 29CFR 1910 Standard (Certification required)
- Must possess good communication skill

One (1) SHEET METAL WORKER
- Fabricate and install sheet metal & fiberglass products and equipment such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipes & furnace casings
- Set-up and operate fabricating equipment and machines, soldering and welding equipment
- Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans and specifications
- Minimum 10-year work experience required

One (1) HVAC/R SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Knowledgeable of HVAC/R Equipment and Parts sale
- Knowledgeable of product selection, listing of order and inventory
- Must be proficient on Computer Software such as Peachtree Accounting System, MS Excel and MS Word

One (1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER
- Perform duties and responsibilities to maintain and clean commercial buildings, offices, warehouses, space rentals and private households in an orderly manner
- Perform basic to heavy cleaning duties
- Must be responsible, reliable & efficient at all times and Police Clearance required

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
D&W Saipan Inc.

Automotive Service Technician and Mechanics (3)
5 years continued experience. Knowledgeable in general repair and replacement services to include: truing rotors and drums, disc drums and brakes, wheel alignment, struts and suspension, engine performance (tune-up), fuel systems, cruise control, sound systems, exhaust systems, fluid and filter service, heating and cooling systems, air conditioning systems, drive train/U-joint service, front wheel drive/constant velocity joints and specialty installations

Supervisor of Mechanics Installer & Repairer
5 years continued experience. 4-year degree graduate, preferred. Knowledgeable in general repair of vehicles/trucks. Proficient in estimating and quoting jobs and diagnosing mechanical problems at all stages. Demonstrated proficiency in supervising and motivating subordinates. Excellent written and oral communication

Four Wheel Alignment Technician
5 years continued experience. Heshbon HA710 Series Computer Alignment, preferred. Specialize in performing wheel Alignments and adjustment on medium and heavy duty vehicles. Comprehensive understanding of vehicle performance & under-body diagnosis, and knowledge of brake system, steering, suspension. Promote tire sales, provide technical service, repairs and diagnose tire wear.

Accountant/Bookkeeper
5 years accounting experience. Bachelors degree holder, preferred. Proficient in Quickbooks /Peachtree software. Must have excellent communication and multitasking skills, organizational and self management skills.

Interested applicants submit resume and latest police clearance at D & W Saipan Inc. office , 2nd floor of Highway Express Building middle Road. For application to be considered should be sent not later than July 12,2014

JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 – DIESEL TANK TRUCK DRIVER
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Knowledge to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle that transporting hazardous material (petroleum diesel).
- Knowledge to load/unload petroleum diesel at filling rack
- Knowledge to read tank truck gauges or meters
- Must know to transport hazardous materials (petroleum diesel) and must know how to respond in case of spillage and emergency.
- Safety training is required to Hazardous material transportation
- Familiarization in hazard class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Masterials/Dangerous Goods)
- Must be a certified Hazmat Tank truck driver
- Must have not less than 5 years experience as a Hazmat Tank Truck Driver
- Commercial Driver's Health Certificate is required.
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Bachelors degree in Accounting with 5 years work related experience in financial transactions.
- Familiar with Petroleum business activities
- Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsibility, and able to manage deadlines
- Knowledge in Peachtree software, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Word operations

Mail complete application or resume to:
D & W Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950.
Deadline: July 11, 2014

JVA for YANO ENTERPRISES, INC.
dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (2): Must be efficient in handling financial records, statements, & reports. Have knowledge on all Taxes computation & filing. Must be able to budget & estimate purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise necessary in the company.

Restaurant Waitress (7): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (5): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience.

Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 17, 2014. Please no phone calls.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
H.S. Lee Construction Co. Inc.

Maintenance Supervisor
5-10 years continued experience. Extensive knowledge in building inspection, safety measures and waste management. Must have experience in general and repair work including electrical, plumbing, mechanical and carpentry work. Knowledgeable in OSHA and CNMI environmental laws. Knowledgeable in electrical system installation in accordance with NEC and local government standards.

Building Repairs and maintenance
5-7 years continued experience. Perform maintenance and repair jobs on buildings, knowledge in carpentry, plumbing, masonry and yard work.

Houseworker
5 years experience. Honest, trustworthy, hardworking and follow instructions well. Can perform housework and cook Korean meals. Preferably Korean speaking.

Interested applicants submit resume and latest police clearance at HS Lee Construction Office, 2nd floor of Highway Express Building middle Road. For application to be considered should be sent not later than July 12, 2014

L&T Group of Companies is inviting individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, July 21, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

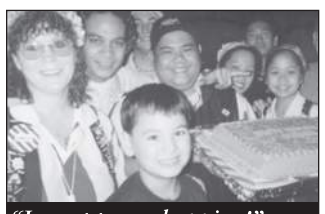
1 – LPG EQUIPMENT/TANKER MECHANIC
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Applicant must have a minimum of 5 preferably more years experience specifically dealing with LPG with demonstrable experience in the administering of LPG equipment installations and their subsequent maintenance.
- Repairing and maintaining of LPG Tanker Trucks, LPG pumps and metering system.
- must have experience with dangerous good regulations and familiarization in hazard class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Materials and Dagerous Goods).
- must have the knowledge in safety practices and hazmat security procedures.
- Safety training to Hazardous Material transportation is required.
- Commercial Driver's Health Certificate is required.
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written especially when it come to inventory and reporting.
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – LPG TANK TRUCK DRIVER
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Must have 5 years experience as LPG Tank Truck Driver
- Knowledge to load and/or unload LPG at filling rack and read gauges or meters.
- Must know to operate LPG Truck (MC-331) in accordance to established safety procedures.
- Must be a trained Hazmat Tank truck driver
- Safety training certificate is required in Hazardous Material Transportation and have knowledge in Hazard Class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Materials/Dangerous Goods).
- Commercial Drivers Health Certificate is required
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – LPG MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Must have 5 years experience in the relevant field
- Ability to perform LPG equipment installation.
- Monitor the loading and/or unloading of LPG from isotainer to LPG storage tank with safety procedures.
- Training certificate is required in Hazardous Material Transportation
- Familiarization in Hazard Class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Materials/Dangerous Goods)
- Commercial Drivers Health Certificate is required
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Applicant must have 5 years work related experience in accounting.
- Must have knowledge in LPG Petroleum business activities.
- Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsibility, and able to manage deadlines.
- Must have knowledge in Peachtree software, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Word operations.

Mail your complete application or resume' to:
Wushin Corporation, PO Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950
Closing date: July 11, 2014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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW-14-RFP-003

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROGRAM

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals for the Waste to Energy Program, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-210 (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after July 1, 2014 at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950. A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Conference Room on July 18, 2014. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-9828 no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, August 8, 2014.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW-14-RFP-003."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (6) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, August 13, 2014.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, August 13, 2014, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and six (6) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 13, 2014 and must be received no later August 22, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1) Experience in waste-to-energy programs	**25%**
2) Proposed power production system	**25%**
3) Financial capacity of proposer	**20%**
4) Proposed financial structure included cost	**30%**

Price is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit proposals. Qualification and experience are more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in qualifications and experiences, the important of price will increase.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

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Samardzija wins debut as A's top Blue Jays

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Jeff Samardzija pitched seven strong innings to win his Oakland debut as the Athletics beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2 Sunday to complete a four-game sweep.

Samardzija, acquired a day earlier in a trade with the Chicago Cubs, received several standing ovations. He was cheered during pregame warmups and again after striking out the side in the seventh.

Samardzija gave up one run and four hits. He struck out five and walked one while earning his first win since June 7.

Samardzija was 2-7 with the Cubs despite a 2.83 ERA.

Jed Lowrie had two hits and scored twice, and leadoff hitter John Jaso added a pair of hits and an RBI for the A's, who won their fourth straight following a three-game sweep in Detroit.

AP

Oakland Athletics' Josh Donaldson catches a foul ball hit by Toronto Blue Jays' Munenori Kawasaki in the eighth inning of a baseball game Saturday, July 5, 2014, in Oakland, Calif.

Diamondbacks 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Wade Miley earned his first win since early May and Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer as Arizona stopped the Braves' nine-game winning streak.

Miley (4-6) allowed one run on five hits and one walk in 6 2-3 innings. The left-hander was 0-3 in his previous nine starts and had not won since beating the White Sox on May 10. The win snapped his streak of five straight no-decisions.

Atlanta starter Alex Wood (6-7) allowed two runs on only three hits and three walks in seven innings. Wood's big mistake was Goldschmidt's homer off the foul pole in left field in the third inning.

Rays 7, Tigers 3

In Detroit, All-Star David Price came within an out of a complete game in helping Tampa Bay climb out of last place in the AL East.

The Rays have won three straight and eight of nine to move a half-game ahead of defending champion Boston in the standings. Tampa Bay had sole possession of the cellar for 39 consecutive days.

Price (8-7) received his fourth All-Star selection before the game, and he allowed three runs and seven hits before being pulled amid rain, thunder and lightning with two outs in the ninth. Jake McGee came on with two on and got the final out for his fifth save in six chances.

Yankees 9, Twins 7

In Minneapolis, Jacoby Ellsbury homered, doubled and drove in four runs as New York took a huge lead then held off Minnesota.

Down 9-0 in the fourth inning, the Twins began rallying and eventually brought the potential winning run to the plate with two outs in the ninth. Kurt Suzuki grounded out with runners at the corners to end it.

Before the game, the Yankees traded lefty Vidal Nuno to Arizona for right-handed starter Brandon McCarthy. New York also cut outfielder Alfonso Soriano.

Derek Jeter and Ichiro Suzuki each had three hits for the Yankees, who have won 14 of 18 overall at Target Field.

Giants 5, Padres 3

In San Diego, Tim Lincecum continued his mastery of San Diego, taking a shutout into the seventh inning against the Padres 11 days after he no-hit them, as the Giants won two straight to win only their second series in nearly a month.

Lincecum (8-5) extended his scoreless streak to 23 1-3 innings before Brooks Conrad hit a solo homer in the seventh to knock him out of the game.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner allowed one run on three hits, walked four and struck out six. Lincecum has won all three starts this season against San Diego and improved his mark to 16-6 in 29 career starts.

Brandon Belt drove in two runs for San Francisco and Hunter Pence had three hits.

Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his third save in six chances.

Orioles 7, Red Sox 6, 12 innings

In Boston, David Lough tripled to lead off the 12th inning and scored off J.J. Hardy's single as Baltimore recovered after blowing a five-run lead.

Brad Brach (4-0) earned the victory with three innings of scoreless relief. He allowed one hit and one walk while striking out four. Zach Britton pitched the 12th for his 14th save.

Edward Mujica (2-4) worked a scoreless 11th before Lough lined a triple to the center field wall leading off the 12th. The next batter, Hardy, bounced one through the left side of the infield to give the Orioles the lead.

Indians 4, Royals 1

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber allowed four hits and struck out 10 in 8 1-3 innings, as Carlos Santana and Yan Gomes homered for Cleveland.

Kluber (8-6) took a three-hitter into the ninth before Eric Hosmer started the inning with a double. The right-hander, who gave up a solo homer to Mike Moustakas in the fifth, was pulled after striking out Salvador Perez.

Cody Allen recorded the final two outs for his ninth save.

Both of Cleveland's home runs came off Danny Duffy (5-8) in the second. Santana led off the inning with a line drive that barely cleared the fence in right. Gomes followed with a two-run homer to center.

Nationals 2, Cubs 1

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman's eighth inning single drove in the go-ahead run for surging Washington.

Nationals starter Jordan Zimmermann outdueled Jake Arrieta over six innings and left with a 1-0 lead. The Cubs tied it in the seventh on Starlin Castro's sacrifice fly against Drew Storen.

Denard Span's hustle turned a soft hit to right field off Pedro Strop (1-4) into a double leading off the eighth. Two outs later, the Cubs intentionally walked Adam LaRoche to bring up Zimmerman, who ripped a single to left that scored Span.

Angels 6, Astros 1

In Anaheim, Garrett Richards won his sixth decision in seven starts, striking out a career-high 11 to lead surging Los Angeles to the four-game sweep and its 10th straight home win.

Albert Pujols drove in the Angels' first two runs with a bases-loaded single and Kole Calhoun homered, helping them go 15 games over .500 for the first time since ending the 2012 season at 89-73. The Halos swept a four-game set at home for the first time since July 2011 and are 21-3 at the "Big A" since May 17 — their best 24-game stretch at home in franchise history.

Dodgers 8, Rockies 2

In Denver, Matt Kemp had four hits and drove in two runs, Adrian Gonzalez had three RBIs as Los Angeles won three of four in the series.

Juan Uribe added three hits for the Dodgers, who lead the NL West by a half-game over San Francisco.

Shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, an All-Star starter with an NL-best 5.3 million votes, scored both runs for the Rockies.

Colorado was 26-20 on May 20 but has lost 17 of 20 to fall into a tie for last in the NL West with Arizona.

Josh Beckett (6-5) allowed just three hits in five scoreless innings.

Mets, Rangers 4

In New York, Zack Wheeler breezed into the seventh inning and Anthony Recker hit a three-run homer in a five-run first as New York beat Texas for a series win.

Lucas Duda had an RBI double and Juan Lagares a run-scoring single in the Mets' biggest opening inning of the season, with all the runs scoring with two outs. New York then got only one hit off Nick Tepesch (3-4) until Kirk Nieuwenhuis led off the sixth with a long ball to right field.

Daniel Murphy's RBI double in the seventh made it 7-1, but reliever Gonzalez Germen allowed Alex Rios' first homer in 46 games and Leonys Martin's two-run drive before getting an out in the eighth.

Marlins 8, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Henderson Alvarez worked seven stingy innings and started the key rally with the first of his career-best three hits, helping Miami take two of three from its spring training partners.

Casey McGehee extended his hitting streak to a career-high 13 games with an RBI single in the first. Marcell Ozuna had a two-run single in a three-run sixth that made it 4-0, and Jarrod Saltalamacchia's three-run homer off Jason Motte put Miami up 8-1 in the eighth.

The first two games of the series were decided by one run.

The Marlins have won a franchise-record 10 straight games started by Alvarez (6-3), and they easily took the series finale despite stranding 14 runners. Alvarez is 4-0 with a 1.04 ERA during that stretch, allowing no more than two runs in any outing.

Pirates 6, Phillies 2

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Locke gave up three hits and a walk in eight innings as Pittsburgh completed its first series sweep of the season.

Pittsburgh had failed to finish a sweep in eight previous tries this season. Philadelphia was swept for the eighth time. The Pirates (47-41) moved a season-high six games over .500, while the Phillies (37-51) fell a season-high 14 games below .500.

Locke (2-1) gave up two runs — one earned — and struck out four. He has made six straight quality starts since being recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis on June 8.

A.J. Burnett (5-8) gave up three runs on five hits and two walks while striking out seven in seven innings in his return to Pittsburgh.

White Sox 1, Mariners 0

In Chicago, Hector Noesi pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning for his first win in a month, leading Chicago over Seattle.

Noesi (3-6) struck out five and walked two in 6 2-3 innings, a crisp performance against one of his former teams. The right-hander pitched for Seattle for parts of three seasons before he was cut in April.

Chicago finished with just two hits after it had four in Saturday's 3-2 loss in 14 innings. But Conor Gillaspie scored on a wild pitch in the first and Noesi combined with two relievers on a five-hitter.

Eric Surkamp got Robinson Cano to fly out with the bases loaded for the final out of the seventh, and Jake Petricka pitched two innings for his third save in four chances.

Reds 4, Brewers 2

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce emerged from the deepest slump of his career — 0 for 26 — with a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning that rallied Cincinnati over Milwaukee.

The Reds gained a game on the NL Central leaders by taking two of three in their series, moving to six back. Cincinnati has won 10 of 15 overall.

The Brewers have the NL's best record despite losing five of six.

Bruce hit a two-run shot with one out in the eighth off left-hander Will Smith (1-2), who took over for Yovani Gallardo.

Mat Latos (2-1) allowed two runs and four hits in a season-high eight innings. Jonathan Broxton pitched the ninth for his sixth save in eight chances.

Sources: LeBron to meet with Riley this week

MIAMI (AP)—Before LeBron James makes his next decision, Pat Riley will get a chance to convince him to stay in Miami.

Two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press late Sunday night that James will meet with the Heat president this week before making a decision about where to play next season. The time and location of the meeting were still being scheduled, said the people who spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the Heat nor James announced their plans publicly.

"In the next two or three days," one of the people said.

Monday would seem difficult, unless James' schedule changes. He has a commercial shoot planned and was expected to travel to Las Vegas later in the day for his annual camp with some of the nation's best young basketball players, an event that opens Wednesday. James also has been planning a trip to Brazil for the World Cup final on July 13.

There's urgency from the Heat perspective as well. NBA players can begin signing new contracts Thursday, with some deals already having been agreed upon and plenty of others likely to fall into place in the coming days, so it would clearly benefit the Heat to know James' plans sooner than later.

AP

In this June 17, 2014 file photo, Miami Heat's LeBron James gestures as he answers a question during a news conference in Miami. Two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press late Sunday night that James will meet with the Heat president this week before making a decision about where to play next season.

James opted out of his contract with the Heat last month, as did fellow Miami stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. James' agent, Rich Paul, met with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Phoenix Suns, Houston Rockets and Dallas Mavericks while the four-time NBA MVP was vacationing last week. James, from Akron, Ohio, spent his first seven NBA seasons with Cleveland.

James' decision would figure to set off a wave of other deals. If he stays in Miami, that would almost certainly help convince Wade and Bosh to stay with the Heat. If James returns to Cleveland, the Cavaliers would more than likely have to make a trade of some significance to open up salary cap space.

Riley and the Heat won over James with their sales pitch four years ago. When James opted out, Riley said through the team that he looked forward to having an opportunity to meet with him and discuss their futures together.

Now, it would seem they'll be discussing if they'll actually have a future.

The Cavs are hoping they can impress James with a young roster that includes No. 1 overall draft picks in Kyrie Irving, Anthony Bennett and Andrew Wiggins. In the early hours of free agency last week, Irving agreed to a five-year, $90 million contract extension the All-Star point guard is expected to sign Thursday.

Cleveland also has room under the salary cap, but will need to clear more space to offer James a max deal.

One stumbling block for the Cavs could be the fractured relationship between owner Dan Gilbert and James. When James left in 2010, Gilbert wrote a scathing letter to Cleveland fans, condemning the four-time league MVP. He also told the AP he felt James quit in playoff games.

Clippers sale hangs in balance as trial begins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With the potentially record-breaking $2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers hanging in the balance, a trial beginning Monday will focus on whether Donald Sterling's estranged wife had the authority under terms of a family trust to unilaterally negotiate the deal.

Shelly Sterling struck a deal to sell the Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer after Donald Sterling's racist remarks to a girlfriend were publicized and the NBA moved to oust him as team owner.

In order to do so, she had two doctors examine her 80-year-old husband and they declared him mentally incapacitated and unable to act as an administrator of The Sterling Family Trust, which owns the Clippers.

The terms of the trust say incapacitation can be determined by two licensed doctors without ties to the family who are specialists in their field. A trustee must cooperate with such exams.

The judge must find that Shelly Sterling acted in accordance with the trust and that the deal still applies - even though the trust has since been revoked by Donald Sterling - for the sale to proceed.

Donald Sterling's attorneys say that his wife "blindsided" him and he submitted to examinations under false pretenses. They allege there was undue influence in the doctors' findings, and that the exams and letters regarding his mental capacity were defective and incomplete.

They say that if he'd been properly informed, he would have participated at a more convenient time instead of being pulled out of legal meetings.

"He would have also eaten properly and have been well rested for the examinations and focused on taking the exam with the full and complete understanding what it was for and the serious nature of the exam," they wrote in filings.

But Shelly Sterling's attorney, Pierce O'Donnell, said that Donald Sterling voluntarily went to take scans of his brain and there was no requirement to remind Donald Sterling, who is an attorney, or his legal team of the trust's conditions.

The trial will also focus on the question of what happens to a deal that hasn't been closed once a trust is revoked. Donald Sterling revoked the trust on June 9 - weeks after Shelly Sterling negotiated the deal with Ballmer.

Shelly Sterling's attorneys also contend that finishing the deal is part of "winding down" the trust's affairs and that she has an obligation to close or Ballmer will sue.

Donald Sterling's attorneys argue that the probate court now lacks jurisdiction and that winding down affairs refers to passive actions, not a sale that markedly changes the assets in the trust and its value.

Donald Sterling's attorneys made a late move last week to shift the case to federal court so their allegations of medical privacy violations in the probate case can be heard.

Attorneys for both Shelly Sterling and Ballmer called the filing a "desperate" tactic that they would seek to block.

It was not immediately clear when a federal judge would rule on the filing or how it would affect the probate proceedings, but the trial remained on schedule to start Monday morning.

Whatever happens, timing is tight. NBA owners must approve what would be a record-breaking deal and are scheduled to meet July 15 to vote.

That's the same day Ballmer's offer is set to expire - and there is no deal without the judge's approval of the sale.

If the sale isn't completed by Sept. 15, the league said it could seize the team and put it up for auction.

Boris Diaw is staying in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Boris Diaw was on his way out of the NBA when he arrived in San Antonio, where the Spurs were trying to breathe new life into a core that had not won a championship in five years.

They proved to be a perfect match, and after playing a key role in the Spurs' latest championship, Diaw found no reason to continue his career renaissance elsewhere.

Diaw tweeted Sunday night that he agreed to terms on a new contract with the Spurs and a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press that it's a three-year contract worth $22 million. The person requested anonymity because the contract cannot be signed until the league's moratorium ends Thursday.

''Hey spurs fans, Good news,'' the French-born Diaw tweeted, ''i stay in san antonio for a few more years. Lets win it again.''

For the 32-year-old Diaw, it was a chance to get one last big payday that he earned by providing some essential versatility on both ends of the court for the Spurs. He averaged 9.1 points, 4.1 rebounds and 2.8 assists and shot over 52 percent in 25 minutes per game last season.

For the Spurs, it was the chance to keep together a team that posted the best record in the NBA last season and dominated the two-time defending champion Miami Heat in the finals. They have already learned this summer that Tim Duncan is returning next season and backup point guard Patty Mills will be back as well after a long rehabilitation of a shoulder injury.

The Spurs decided to give Diaw a hearty raise after watching him blossom in a system Gregg Popovich designed to keep the ball moving at all costs. But they also protected themselves by only partially guaranteeing the third year of the deal, which was first reported by Yahoo! Sports. He will be guaranteed $15.5 million over the first two seasons of the contract, a big boost from the $4.7 million he made last year.

''He's perfect for them,'' former Timberwolves coach Rick Adelman said about Diaw and the Spurs during the season.

Diaw was considered a rising star in the early portion of his career in Phoenix, a lithe, athletic, big man with the vision of a point guard that flourished with the run-and-gun Suns. But his career nose-dived soon after when he was traded to the Charlotte Bobcats in 2008. He put on weight and didn't appear interested in playing for a team with no hope of contending.

The Bobcats waived Diaw near the end of the 2012 season, and the Spurs brought him in to see if he could rediscover his game while playing alongside close friend and countryman Tony Parker.

That's exactly what happened.

It didn't take long for Diaw to make a good impression with Popovich, and he signed a two-year deal to stay with the Spurs that summer. He still carries a few extra pounds, but the deft passing, precise defensive positioning and floor-stretching shooting all have reappeared and been vital to San Antonio's two straight finals appearances and its run this spring to a fifth championship.

Meanwhile, the Dallas Mavericks are bringing back Devin Harris in what could be a more prominent role for the point guard.

Two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Saturday that Harris and the Mavericks have agreed on a new contract. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't announced the deal.

The 31-year-old Harris played for Dallas on a one-year, $3 million deal last season, missing the first half of the year after offseason toe surgery. He originally had a three-year contract worth $9 million, but the deal was scuttled by the toe injury.

The new deal is reportedly similar in value to last year's three-year contract.

The deal with Harris came two days after Dirk Nowitzki agreed to terms on a three-year, $30 million contract with a player option in the final season of the deal.

The Mavericks struck both deals while still waiting for word from free agent Carmelo Anthony, who visited Dallas last week. If Anthony signs elsewhere, Dallas will be in the market for a small forward to play alongside Nowitzki.

2 basketball leagues to open this month

Two Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands-sanctioned leagues are kicking off this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

First up is the 2014 Emon Lodge No.179 Basketball Masters League, which will begin its competition on July 14. The league is for players in the 40-and-above age group and will feature six teams. The list includes Chef Team/Pacific Islands Club, Armatech, Bluehaus, Mariana Resort & Spa, I Love Saipan/Star Sand Plaza), and Team San Antonio.

A traditional parade of teams will take place at the opening ceremony at 6pm and participating squads are requested to be at the venue by 5:30pm. Two matches will be played in the opening day with the first one set for 6:30pm and the second at 8pm. Games in the Emon Lodge caging will be played every Monday and Wednesday.

The Tuesday and Thursday play dates are for the 2014 Inter-Hotel Basketball League, which will open shop on July 15.

Seven teams will battle for the championship: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort, Pacific Islands Club, Kanoa Resort, Saipan World Resort, Mariana Resort &Spa, and Shirley's Coffee/Century Hotel.

The opening ceremony is slated for 6:30pm and teams must be at the Ada gym by 5:30pm. The first match on the opening day is scheduled for 7:30pm, while the second is at 9pm. Defending champion Hyatt Regency Saipan will see action in the first game with its opponent to be determined via draw. Another draw will be held to pick the two other teams that will collide in the second match.

For more information, contact BANMI board member and referee association vice president Abner Venus at 888-3215. ***(RBM)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Elmer Esdrelon is forced to make a dish off as he is challenged by two Blazers defenders during a game in last year's Emon Lodge caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	48	40	.545	–
Toronto	47	43	.522	2
New York	44	43	.506	3½
Tampa Bay	41	50	.451	8½
Boston	39	49	.443	9

Central Division

Detroit	48	37	.565	–
Kansas City	45	42	.517	4
Cleveland	43	44	.494	6
Chicago	42	47	.472	8
Minnesota	39	48	.448	10

West Division

Oakland	55	33	.625	–
Los Angeles	51	36	.586	3½
Seattle	48	40	.545	7
Texas	38	50	.432	17
Houston	36	54	.400	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	49	39	.557	–
Washington	48	39	.552	½
Miami	43	45	.489	6
New York	39	49	.443	10
Philadelphia	37	51	.420	12

Central Division

Milwaukee	52	37	.584	–
Pittsburgh	47	41	.534	4½
St. Louis	47	42	.528	5
Cincinnati	45	42	.517	6
Chicago	38	48	.442	12½

West Division

Los Angeles	51	40	.560	–
San Francisco	49	39	.557	½
San Diego	39	49	.443	10½
Colorado	37	52	.416	13
Arizona	37	53	.411	13½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI

From Page 28

coming to the CNMI. Let's be excited and stay excited until the Games are here," Igitol, the secretary general of NMSA, said.

With the Council officially naming the Commonwealth as the host of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, White said it's time to buckle down to work.

"The hard work starts now," said White, who stated in a previous NMSA meeting that a local organizing committee must be formed early to move forward with the CNMI's preparation for the hosting of the quadrennial meet.

People from the business and government sectors are expected to be included in the committee and work with NMSA officials.

Another concern for the host island are the facilities, which received a good grade from the Council when PGC president Vidhya Lakhan and executive director Andrew Minogue visited Saipan last May this year, but need improvement and maintenance.

The Oleai Sports Complex, which is now under the sole management of NMSA and housed baseball and softball fields, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, and the track and field facility, is still the main headquarters for the Games. Other facilities being considered to host various competitions include the Marianas High School Gymnasium, TSL Sports Complex, and the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. As for the delegates' accommodations, the CNMI is eyeing MHS and Hopwood Junior High School to house athletes and officials, while Kanoa Resort is proposed for VIPs.

For funding, NMSA in its bid documents indicated it will seek local funds and federal grants for the improvement of existing facilities and the operational cost. NMSA estimated the cost of hosting the Pacific Mini Games at $1,160,00. Of the over $1-million budget for the Games, $650,000 will come from participation fees from the 22 nations, $250,000 from the government, and the remaining $260,000 from the private sector through sponsorships.

The CNMI is offering 12 sports for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. The list includes athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, canoe racing, volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling.

DJOKOVIC

From Page 28

have been a record eighth championship at the All England Club.

"I could have easily lost my concentration in the fifth and just handed him the win. But I didn't, and that's why this win has a special importance to me, mentally," Djokovic said. ''I managed to not just win against my opponent, but win against myself, as well, and find that inner strength.''

Cradling his trophy during the post-match ceremony, Djokovic addressed Federer directly, saying: "I respect your career and everything you have done. And thank you for letting me win today.''

Even Federer had to smile at that line.

Truth is, Djokovic deserved plenty of credit for figuring out a way to raise his Grand Slam total to seven titles and allows him to overtake Rafael Nadal at No. 1 in the rankings.

"Novak deserved it at the end, clearly," said Federer, who hadn't been to a Grand Slam final since winning his 17th major at Wimbledon in 2012, "but it was extremely close."

Federer, who turns 33 next month, won 88 of 89 service games through the semifinals and produced 29 aces in the final, but Djokovic broke him four times.

Federer went to the net aggressively, only to see Djokovic zoom more than a dozen passing shots past him. And with most of the Centre Court crowd of about 15,000 raucously cheering for Federer, the 27-year-old Djokovic kept believing in himself.

That part might have been the most difficult, given that Djokovic lost his past three major finals, and five of his past six, including against Andy Murray at Wimbledon last year, and against Nadal at the French Open last month.

"Started doubting, of course, a little bit," Djokovic said. "I needed this win a lot."

Boris Becker, the three-time Wimbledon champion who began coaching Djokovic this season, called the new champion "the biggest competitor" and praised "his sense of not giving up, giving it always another try."

"It could've gone either way in the fifth set," said Becker, whose former rival as a player, Stefan Edberg, coaches Federer. "Novak finds another way. He digs deep and finds another way."

Djokovic built a 5-2 lead in the fourth set and served for the championship at 5-3. But Federer broke there for the first time all afternoon, smacking a forehand winner as Djokovic slipped and fell on a patch of brown dirt.

Djokovic took a nastier tumble in the second set, hurting his left leg and prompting the first of two medical timeouts; he got his right calf massaged by a trainer in the fifth.

With Federer serving at 5-4 in the fourth, he double-faulted to 30-all, then netted a backhand for 30-40 - handing Djokovic a match point.

Federer hit a 118 mph (190 kph) serve that was called out, but he challenged the ruling, and the replay showed the ball touched a line for an ace. That was part of Federer's five-game run to force a fifth set. It would be another 42 minutes until Djokovic again stood so close to triumph.

"Can't believe I made it to five," Federer said. "Wasn't looking good there for a while.''

In truth, after so much drama, the ending was anticlimactic. Trailing 5-4 but serving, Federer missed four groundstrokes, pushing a backhand into the net on Djokovic's second match point.

Victory his, Djokovic knelt on the most hallowed tennis court in the world, plucked a blade of grass and shoved it in his mouth, just as he did after his 2011 Wimbledon title. He dedicated this victory to his pregnant fiancee ''and our future baby,'' and to Jelena Gencic, his first tennis coach, who died last year.

"This is the best tournament in the world, the most valuable one," Djokovic said. "The first tennis match that I ever (saw) in my life, when I was 5 years old, was Wimbledon, and that image stuck (in) my mind."

SCOLARI

From Page 28

ity," Willian said. "I have a different style. He is more of a striker, scores more goals, while my strong suit is to set up my teammates."

The Chelsea player left practice near the end of Saturday's session because of a hit on the back but said the injury was not a problem even though it "was still bothering" him a bit.

Bernard said he is prepared to play but acknowledged it won't be easy to replace the team's biggest star.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "No player would want to have this opportunity to play because of an injury to someone so important to us on and off the field. But it happened, and we have to understand that we can get through this."

In addition to missing Neymar, Brazil will not be able to count on captain and central defender Thiago Silva because of a yellow card suspension. Dante, who plays in Germany for Bayern Munich, is his likely replacement. Fellow defender David Luiz is the probable captain on Tuesday.

The Brazilian football confederation is trying to overturn Silva's suspension and FIFA said it was analyzing the request, but it remained unlikely Brazil would get its way.

Neymar had missed only six of Brazil's 60 matches played after the 2010 World Cup. In the 54 matches he played with the national team, Brazil won 36, drew 12 and lost six. He had scored half of Brazil's eight goals going into the World Cup quarterfinals.

The Barcelona star was kneed in the back in the 86th minute of the match against Colombia, sustaining a fractured vertebra that will sideline him for about 45 days.

Brazil asks FIFA to overturn Thiago Silva ban

The Brazilian football confederation is trying to overturn captain Thiago Silva's ban for Tuesday's World Cup semifinal against Germany.

FIFA spokesman Delia Fischer on Sunday said the disciplinary committee is "analyzing material" submitted by Brazil.

Thiago Silva impeded Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina's attempt to kick the ball downfield during Brazil's 2-1 quarterfinal win over Colombia, picking up his second yellow card of the tournament and incurring an automatic suspension for the next match.

Yellow cards traditionally cannot be overturned. The FIFA disciplinary code states that cautions can be canceled only in "exceptional circumstances."

At the 1962 World Cup, Brazil star Garrincha was sent off in the semifinals victory against host Chile, then was cleared to play in the final. Brazil beat Czechoslovakia 3-1.

Now, no player can be suspended for the final just for receiving a yellow card in the semifinals.

FIFA wipes all single yellow cards from players' disciplinary records after the quarterfinals round.

2014 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League Awardees

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Island Manpower players pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2014 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League late last month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Joining them in the photo are league officials and supporters. Island Manpower defeated TBK Mechanics in the finals, 81-78.

Players and sponsors of TBK Mechanics pose with their runner-up trophy.

Players of Shocker Nation pose with their fourth place trophy presented by DL Corp. owner Joe Digno, left. Also in the photo is league commissioner Sonny Ebuen, third left.

Island Manpower's Jun Tabora, center, shows his Finals MVP trophy.

Mythical Team member Ivan Devero, left, of TBK Mechanics is congratulated by league supporter Orly Ebuen.

Representatives of participating teams receive certificates from league lead sponsor DL Corp.

Regular season MVP Jake Quitugua of TBK Mechanics is all smiles after receiving the award.

Island Manpower's Cecilio Bisana smiles after his selection to the Mythical Five.

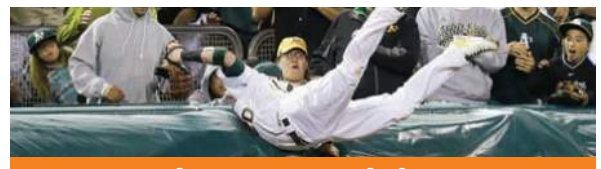
Mythical Team member Prince Factor, left, of San Antonio receives his award from a league volunteer.

Mythical Team member Jerome Norita, left, of Island Manpower gets his trophy from a league volunteer.

Sources: LeBron to meet with Riley this week

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Samardzija wins debut as A's top Blue Jays

PAGE 24

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Jordan Kosam, Emelinda Cabrera, Rose Igitol, Tony Rogolifoi, Mike White, Kurt Barnes, and Johann Noetzel pose for a group photo yesterday at the arrival area of the Saipan International Airport. White came from a meeting in Papua New Guinea and announced the awarding of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games' hosting rights to the CNMI.

CNMI hosting of Mini Games confirmed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White officially confirmed the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"The 2021 Pacific Mini Games has been awarded to the Northern Mariana Islands during the Pacific Games Council's general assembly in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea last weekend," White said.

"We would like to thank Gov. Eloy Inos for showing strong support to the CNMI's bid in bringing the Pacific Mini Games here. We would also like to thank Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider for appearing with us in Port Moresby and joining our presentation," he added.

White announced the good news yesterday during his return to Saipan. He was greeted at the arrival area of the Saipan International Airport by fellow NMSA officials Rose Igitol, Tony Rogolifoi, Emelinda Cabrera, Kurt Barnes, and Jordan Kosam.

"Finally, the Pacific Mini Games is

See CNMI on Page 26

Djokovic hangs tough to edge Federer

LONDON (AP)—Novak Djokovic's large lead in the rollicking Wimbledon final was slipping away, due in no small part to Roger Federer's regal presence and resurgent play.

No man has won tennis' oldest major tournament more often than Federer, and he was not about to let it go easily. Djokovic went from being a point from victory in the fourth set to suddenly caught in the crucible of a fifth, and knew all too well that he had come up short in recent Grand Slam title matches.

Steeling himself when he so desperately needed to, Serbia's Djokovic held on for a 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-4 victory after nearly four hours of momentum shifts Sunday to win Wimbledon for the second time—and deny Switzerland's Federer what would

See DJOKOVIC on Page 26

AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia runs to plays a return to Roger Federer of Switzerland during their men's singles final match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Sunday, July 6, 2014.

Scolari hints Willian may replace Neymar in semis

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil (AP)—Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari hinted in training Sunday that midfielder Willian is his first option to replace Neymar in Brazil's World Cup semifinal against Germany.

Willian took Neymar's position when Brazil's reserves played against a local under-20 squad at its training camp outside Rio de Janeiro.

The regular starters stayed in the gym and didn't practice on the field, but all players touted as possible Neymar replacements trained normally. Willian was used in the middle, in front of Brazil's defensive midfielders, the same way Neymar played before being ruled out of the tournament because of a back injury.

The other options for Scolari include Ramires, Bernard and Hernanes.

Brazil won the training match 3-0 with goals by Bernard, Dante and Ramires. It was Brazil's second-to-last practice session before traveling to Belo Horizonte for Tuesday's match at the Mineirao Stadium.

"You can't compare Neymar to any other player, he has a lot of qual-

See SCOLARI on Page 26

AP

Brazil's Willian runs with the ball during a practice session at the Granja Comary training center, in Teresopolis, Brazil, Sunday, July 6, 2014. Brazil will face Germany in their World Cup semifinals' match, without superstar soccer player Neymar.